

JUN 7 1943

THE VILLAGE AS IT MIGHT BE COUNTRY LIFE

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AUCTIONS. Big Demand and keen competition means highest prices obtained for JEWELS, GOLD, SILVER and PLATE at sales by Auction. Sales held each week. Consult the Auctioneers of 130 years standing. DEBENHAM, STORR AND SONS, LTD., Auctioneers and Valuers, 26, King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2. Tel.: Temple Bar 1181-2.

CLOTHING WANTED, also for SALE or HIRE. Suits, Riding Kit, Boots, Pans, Binoculars, Cameras, Trunks, Sporting Guns, Fishing Tackle, Furniture, Linen, CASH for parcels. All-British Firm. Established 25 years.—GORDON GIBSON AND CO., 131 and 141, Edgware Road, Marble Arch. Paid, 3779 and 9908.

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FOR SALE

"COUNTRY LIFE." What offers for fourteen 1943 "Country Life," also future issues. Would exchange for "Esquire" magazine.—ABLIIT, Milldale, Totley, Sheffield.

GREY INDIAN broadtail Lamb COAT to be sold, W.S., full length. Excellent quality and workmanship, 100 Guineas. Appointment by letter.—MRS. BUSH, 20, Holland Park, London, W.11.

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My famous Tomato plants, CUTHBERT'S "SENSATION," have proved to be wonderful croppers, in many cases producing over 8 lbs. of delicious fruit per plant. Thousands of gardeners plant this wonderful variety, because they know that they can be assured of bumper crops every year with unfailing regularity.

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CUTHBERT'S "SENSATION" Tomato Plants are now available: fine, sturdy, POT-GROWN specimens, properly hardened off: 7.6 doz. per 9d.; 3 doz., 22.6, post free.

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The Nation's Nurseryman since 1797

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COUNTRY LIFE

VOL. XCIII. No. 2417.

MAY 14, 1943

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

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ABOUT 12 ACRES

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Also the adjoining farms of MUIRHEAD and ROSEWELL the whole extending to a gross acreage of approximately
600 ACRES

AND PRODUCING AN ACTUAL AND ESTIMATED RENTAL OF

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Particulars, price 1/- of the: Solicitors, Messrs. WILKIE & DUNDAS, Kirriemuir, Angus (Tel. 8/9). Auctioneers: Messrs. JACKSON STOPS & STAFF, 15, Bond Street, Leeds (Tel. 31269), also at Northampton, London, Cirencester, Yeovil, Dublin, etc.

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Hall, 4 reception rooms, winter garden, 11 principal bedrooms, 5 bathrooms.

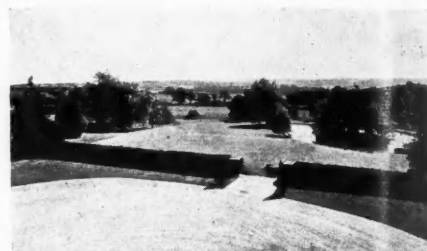
CENTRAL HEATING. FITTED BASINS.
MAIN ELECTRICITY AND WATER. PARQUET FLOORS.

Lodge. 2 cottages. Bungalow. Farmhouse. Capital buildings. Stabling. Garages.

FINELY-TIMBERED GROUNDS.
Tennis lawn. Ornamental lake. Paddocks.

IN ALL ABOUT 58 ACRES
WITH VACANT POSSESSION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WAR.

PRICE FREEHOLD £15,000
OR THE RESIDENCE, LODGE, GARDENS AND PADDOCKS WITH 25 ACRES ONLY.



Particulars and illustrations from: JACKSON STOPS & STAFF, 8, Hanover Street, W.1. (Tel.: Mayfair 3316).

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Having 2 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, etc.
Good garden. Stabling.

PADDOCK OF 2½ ACRES

PRICE FREEHOLD £2,000

AT PRESENT LET UNTIL MARCH 25, 1944, BUT
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Warwick 7 miles. Birmingham 13 miles.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALE OF

TWO FREEHOLD FARMS

BUSHWOOD HALL FARM (109 Acres)

COPPICE CORNER FARM (138 Acres)

Let at £319 0s. 0d. per annum

Keeper's Cottage with Vacant Possession. 1¼ miles of
Trout Fishing in hand. The total area is about

248 Acres 1 Road 25 Poles

For SALE BY AUCTION (unless previously sold
privately) by Messrs. JACKSON STOPS & STAFF
at the TUDOR HOUSE HOTEL, WARWICK, on
FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1943, at 3 p.m.

Solicitors: SAMUEL SEBRA, Esq., 7/8, Great Winchester
Street, London, E.C.1.

Particulars of the Auctioneers and Land Agents: Messrs.
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Between Chippenham and Malmesbury.

A CHARMING STONE-BUILT PERIOD RESIDENCE

Having 3 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, etc.,
good domestic offices.

Electric light. Company's water. Telephone.

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PADDOCK, IN ALL ABOUT

2 ACRES

STABLING AND GARAGE.

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In addition a small Farm and other land (all at present let)
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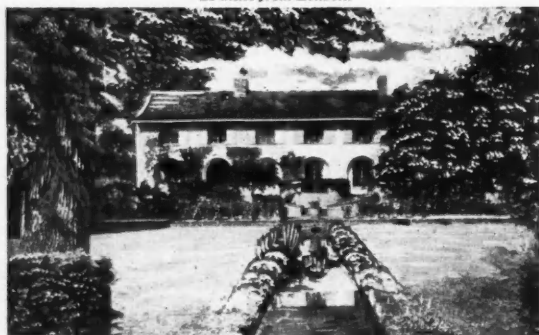
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23 miles from London.



AN UNIQUE AND ATTRACTIVE MODERN HOUSE IN AN OLD GARDEN.
9 or 10 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms. Basins in some bedrooms. Central
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AN ESTATE OF 745 ACRES

WITH A

MODERATE SIZED GEORGIAN COUNTRY HOUSE
IN A PARK

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

THE HOUSE HAS BEEN MODERNISED AND THOROUGHLY REPAIRED
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Excellent train service. Bus route.

AN ATTRACTIVE STONE-BUILT PROPERTY. 9 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms. CENTRAL HEATING.
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By direction of the Executors of the late D. D. Macpherson, Esq.

RADBROOK HALL, SHREWSBURY of about 21 ACRES

A Freehold Property in a delightful position on the outskirts of the County Town.

Lot 1: RADBROOK HALL. 3 reception rooms, billiards room, 8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and excellent offices, and standing in finely-timbered gardens. Also stable and garage premises. Pasture land and farm buildings. About 10 ACRES.

Lot 2: BUILDING LAND, Minsterley Road, about 1½ Acres.

Lot 3: 2 COTTAGES, gardens and land, about 1½ Acres.

Lots 4 to 11: Areas of VALUABLE BUILDING LAND, Minsterley Road, which would be offered in BLOCKS or in SEPARATE LOTS varying from ½ ACRE to 2 ACRES in extent. With VACANT POSSESSION of the Residence, Buildings, Gardens and 1 Cottage.

Also 2 cottages at Little Stratton.

For SALE BY AUCTION as a WHOLE or in 11 LOTS at the COUNTY AUCTION MART, SHREWSBURY, on MAY 25 at 3 p.m.

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COTSWOLD HILLS

800 ft. above sea level. 4 miles main line station.

A DELIGHTFUL GABLED XVth CENTURY RESIDENCE built of stone with stone-tiled roof. It has interesting historical associations also interior features and fine oak staircase. 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Electric light. Part central heating. Good water supply.

Garage. Secondary Residence and cottage.



Old-world grounds with tennis lawns, stone-built gazebo, kitchen garden, paddock and arable land, in all about

18 ACRES

TO BE SOLD FREEHOLD

Agents: Messrs. BRUTON KNOWLES AND CO., Gloucester;

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HERTS—LONDON 25 MILES

On the outskirts of an old market town. About 15 minutes' walk from two stations with services to London in under 1 hour.

A SUBSTANTIALLY BUILT RESIDENCE occupying a high and bracing situation on gravel soil. Entrance and staircase hall, 4 fine reception rooms (with oak and parquet floors, oak panelling and marble and carved mantelpieces), sun lounge, conservatory, 8 bed and dressing, 2 bath, domestic offices with servants' hall.

Partial central heating. All main services.

Garage. Stabling. Gardener's cottage. Greenhouses. Ample outbuildings. WELL-TIMBERED GROUNDS laid out with lawn suitable for tennis court, shrubs, flower beds, herbaceous borders, shaded walks, fruit and vegetable gardens.

About 2 Acres. For Sale at a Moderate Figure

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(10 lines)

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In beautiful country facing South, with glorious views of the South Downs.

A MODERN HOUSE OF CHARACTER, brick built, partly tile hung, with tiled roof, and designed by an Architect.

THE HOUSE occupies a quiet secluded position not overlooked in any way and the accommodation includes: Lounge hall, drawing, dining rooms, cloakroom, domestic offices, 6 bedrooms, bathroom.

Central heating throughout. Electric light. Co.'s gas and water. Modern drainage. Garage.

Cottage available with 2/3 bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen. Garage. Garden. Matured garden of about 1 Acre with lawns, flower beds, kitchen garden, and about 2 Acres of picturesque woodland plantation.

In all about 3 ACRES

For Sale Freehold

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ON HIGH GROUND ABOVE HENLEY-ON-THAMES

SPACIOUS COUNTRY RESIDENCE, GEORGIAN IN CHARACTER

FOR SALE WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION

Completely modernised and standing in grounds of

12 ACRES

The House is so situated that its principal rooms enjoy expansive views up the Thames Valley.

Accommodation: 3 reception rooms, 11 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, well-planned domestic offices, with servants' sitting room. Garage for 2 cars. 4 loose boxes and harness room.

WELL-MATURED GARDEN. ALL MAIN SERVICES. CENTRAL HEATING, etc.

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ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF A FAVOURITE UPPER THAMES VILLAGE

Within about 1 hour of London by good train service.

PICTURESQUE RIVERSIDE RESIDENCE

FOR SALE WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION

Standing high and dry and contains all modern conveniences.

Accommodation comprises: 9 bed and dressing rooms (all with running water), lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, 3 bathrooms, usual domestic offices. Garage. All main services

CENTRAL HEATING, etc.

GARDENER'S COTTAGE (3 bedrooms, kitchen, scullery and bathroom).

GROUND'S EXTEND TO AN AREA APPROXIMATELY

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INCLUDING WET AND DRY BOATHOUSES.

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AN EXCEPTIONAL OFFER BETWEEN TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND PENSHURST

45 minutes London.

MOST ENCHANTING MODERN HOUSE OF CHARACTER, in beautiful gardens over AN ACRE. 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms (all with fitted wash-basins and wardrobes), tiled bathroom. Radiators. All main services. Garage. Price £4,200 (less than pre-war cost). FIRST TIME IN THE MARKET. Agents: F. L. MERCER & CO., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

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Delightful position, beautiful views, adjoining and overlooking Cowdray Park. MODERN QUEEN ANNE STYLE RESIDENCE. 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, tiled bathroom. Central heating. Main services. Garage. Superior cottage. Exquisite gardens, tennis court, woodland, paddock. 3 ACRES. Price £5,500. Just available.—Agents: F. L. MERCER & CO., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

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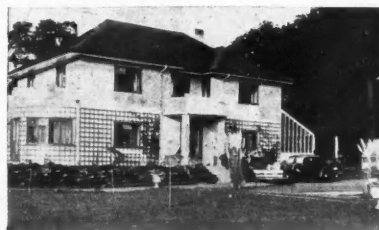
Close to well-known market town. Accessible to London, Ipswich and Norwich by frequent fast trains and buses. SPORTING FACILITIES INCLUDING ROUGH SHOOTING, FISHING, BOATING, ETC.

THE DISTINCTIVE MODERN RESIDENCE in the QUEEN ANNE STYLE, contains: Entrance porch and large hall, with parquet floor and oak-paneled walls, lounge (22 ft., with open fireplace), oak-paneled dining room, study, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, usual domestic offices. Main electricity. Central heating, etc. Double garage and outbuildings.

The well-stocked gardens include lily pool, rockeries, large orchard and kitchen garden. Woodland and paddock.

TOTAL EXTENT 7 ACRES. PRICE FREEHOLD 4,000 GNS.

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Pleasant situation in close proximity to a golf course. About 1 mile from the station.

UNUSUALLY ATTRACTIVE RESIDENCE



OF CONSIDERABLE CHARM, WITH EVERY MODERN COMFORT.

Lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

Central heating. All main services. Garage with rooms over.

Delightful garden, with tennis lawn, Dutch garden, rose trees, etc. About

1 ACRE
PRICE FREEHOLD
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Easy reach of Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Ledbury.

TO BE LET UNFURNISHED

A BEAUTIFUL XVth-XVIIth CENTURY MANOR HOUSE

EXPENSIVELY MODERNISED AND AFFORDING EVERY MODERN CONVENIENCE.

Lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, day and night nurseries, 2 bathrooms, etc. Electric light. Central heating. Garages. Stabling.

LOVELY OLD-WORLD GROUNDS WITH WALLED KITCHEN GARDEN AND PADDOCK. ABOUT

3 ACRES IN ALL

RENT £400 PER ANNUM OPEN TO OFFER

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1 mile from Station. Bus services. High up with open views and unspoilt rural surroundings.

ARCHITECT BUILT FOR MAXIMUM EASE OF RUNNING

ALL BEAMED CEILINGS, BRICK FIREPLACES, FIRST-CLASS FITTINGS THROUGHOUT.

Square entrance hall, tiled sun terrace, drawing room, study and dining room, domestic offices, 5 bedrooms with wash-basins. Vita glass verandah. Bathroom. Main services. Central heating throughout. Large garage.

Most attractive garden, laid out at great cost yet inexpensive to maintain, extending to

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Good situation with fine views. 9 miles Hastings. 6 miles Rye.

DELIGHTFUL PERIOD RESIDENCE FULL OF OLD CAK

Lounge hall, 4 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms. Garage for 2. Main electricity. Water pumped electrically. Modern drainage.

MATURED GARDENS, INCLUDING A SPRING-FED LAKE.

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Established 1875.

NORTH DORSET

2½ miles from main line station.

200 ft. above sea.

London 120 miles by road.

By train 2½ hours.

A FERTILE AND FRIABLE FARM
WITH GENTLEMAN'S RESIDENCE

REPLETE WITH MODERN
CONVENIENCES AND REQUIREMENTS.

Lounge, 2 reception rooms, 9 bedrooms,
3 bathrooms. Central heating. Electricity.

Garage (2 cars). Garden (part-time man).
Natural surroundings. Lodge and cottages.



FAMOUS STUD BUILDINGS.

THE LATE HOME OF THE WELL-KNOWN
GILLTOWN STUD.

WITH 40 LOOSE BOXES.

156 ACRES

ALL FIELDS WITH GOOD FENCES,
WATER, AND IN THE PAST WELL
MANURED AND CARED FOR.

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Lovely country, on bus route, 1 mile station.

CHARMING GEORGIAN HOUSE, facing South, in
delightful old-world grounds. 8 bedrooms, dressing
room, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception. All main services.
Central heating. Stabling. Garage. Cottage.

PLEASURE GARDENS, SMALL WOOD,
2 PADDOCKS, etc.

FOR SALE WITH 11 ACRES

Agents: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

BERKSHIRE DOWNS

Close to village and station. Easy reach Newbury.

A CHARMING PERIOD HOUSE, MAINLY QUEEN
ANNE, with interesting features. 8 bedrooms,
3 reception, bathroom. Main electricity and water. Very
fine range of model stabling. Garage. Pretty gardens and
grassland.

FOR SALE WITH 11 ACRES

WITH POSSESSION AFTER THE WAR.

Sole Agents: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

WANTED

IMMEDIATE POSSESSION NOT ESSENTIAL.

A HOUSE OF CHARACTER. PREFERABLY
GEORGIAN TYPE, with 12 bedrooms, 3-4 bath-
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Likely places will be immediately inspected and
GOOD PRICE PAID FOR THE RIGHT
PLACE.

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UP TO £5,000 OFFERED

FOR AN ATTRACTIVE SMALL HOUSE.
PREFERABLY OLD, with 5-7 bedrooms and
say, 4-10 Acres. Main services. Cottage, if possible.
Any nice district within 150 miles S., S.W., or W.
of London. Can wait 6 months for possession.
Replies to: WILSON & Co. (Ref. H.), as above.

HANTS-WILTS BORDERS

DELIGHTFUL OLD-WORLD HOUSE in
CHARMING COUNTRY, secluded but not
isolated. Easy reach SALISBURY and WIN-
CHESTER. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 recep-
tion. Electric light. Central heating. Garage.
Finely timbered gardens and 3 paddocks.

11 ACRES £5,000

Agents: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

QUEEN ANNE MANOR IN HANTS

BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED, WITH FINE
PANELLING, choice fireplaces, oak floors,
etc. All in perfect order. Main electricity. Central
heating. Basins in bedrooms, etc. 9 bedrooms
(4 more in annexe), 6 bathrooms, 3 reception,
stabling. Garage. Lovely gardens, woodland
and parkland.

FOR SALE WITH 125 ACRES

Agents: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.



JACKSON STOPS & STAFF

SURVEY HOUSE, 15, BOND ST., LEEDS.

TEL.: 31269

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NORTHAMPTON, CIRENCESTER AND YEOVIL

TO HOTELIERS, BUILDERS, INVESTORS, SPORTSMEN AND FARMERS

YORKSHIRE — NOTTINGHAM BORDERS

Doncaster 11 miles. Sheffield 16 miles. Worksop 7 miles.

A MAGNIFICENT AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT. HOTEL & SPORTING PROPERTY
OR POTENTIAL HIGH-CLASS GARDEN CITY IN THE HEART OF ENGLAND

KNOWN AS THE

FIRBECK ESTATE, MALTBY, NEAR SHEFFIELD



together with the famous Elizabethan Mansion of Firbeck Hall, previously renowned as one of the leading Social Country Clubs in the world. (The
Hall was offered for the duration to the Royal Sheffield Infirmary at the outbreak of war, and is now a Hospital.)

Included with the property is the excellent private Aerodrome (designed by the late Captain T. Campbell Black), an 18-hole Golf Course, a magnificent
Swimming Pool, and beyond Four Valuable Farms, several Small Holdings and Cottages, together with the valuable Sporting and Fishing Rights
on the whole estate, which extends to approximately

1,100 ACRES

and produces an actual and estimated gross rental of

£2,500 PER ANNUM APPROXIMATELY

To be offered for SALE BY AUCTION, first as a whole and if not so sold, then in Lots (unless previously sold by private treaty) by
Messrs. JACKSON STOPS & STAFF, in conjunction with EADON, LOCKWOOD & RIDDLE, at the GRAND HOTEL, SHEFFIELD,
on MONDAY, MAY 31, 1943, at 3 p.m. ILLUSTRATED PARTICULARS, PRICE 2/6, of the:

Solicitors: Messrs. WAKE SMITH & Co., Meeting House Lane, Bank Street, Sheffield (Tel. 25112). Auctioneers: Messrs. JACKSON STOPS & STAFF, 15, Bond Street, Leeds 1
(Tel. 31269), and at London, Northampton, Cirencester, Yeovil, Dublin, etc.; Messrs. EADON, LOCKWOOD & RIDDLE, St. James Street, Sheffield (Tel. 20057/8).

Grosvenor 1853
(4 lines.)

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS

(ESTABLISHED 1778)

25, MOUNT ST., GROSVENOR SQ., W.1

Hobart Place, Eaton Sq.,
68, Victoria St.,
Westminster, S.W.1.WEST SUSSEX
CHARMING OLD MANOR HOUSE AND 73 ACRES
WITH VACANT POSSESSION.

Completely rural unspoiled position. Few minutes bus. Long avenue drive, under unique old lych gate. 9 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge hall, drawing room. DINING ROOM AND OLD MONKS' DINING ROOM. 2 BEAUTIFUL LARGE OUTHOUSES AND ROOMS. Electric light. Main water. Central heating. Garage. Cottage. Farmery with model cow-house.

INEXPENSIVE GROUNDS AND MAINLY PASTURE.

THE WHOLE IS READY FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPATION.

Recommended by Joint Sole Agents: Messrs. KING & CHASEMORE, Horsham, and GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (A.2345)

HANTS-WEST SUSSEX BORDER

Secluded position 500 ft. up. 1 mile electric train service. IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.

MODERN EASILY-RUN HOUSE IN EXCELLENT ORDER

IN WOODED GROUNDS, APPROACHED BY PRIVATE ROAD.

8 bedrooms, 1 dressing room, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, up-to-date offices. FINE PANELED BILLIARDS ROOM. Main electric light and water. Central heating. Garage. Cottage.

3½ ACRES

LOVELY GROUNDS



PRICE £6,000

Recommended by: GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (C.2357)

3, MOUNT ST.,
LONDON, W.1.

RALPH PAY & TAYLOR

Grosvenor
1032-33

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES JUST PLACED IN THE MARKET FOR SALE WITH POSSESSION

UNSPOILT BERKSHIRE

Between Henley and Windsor.

FASCINATING XVTH CENTURY HOUSE. Completely restored and modernised. Fine original chimney stacks, period interior. 3 reception, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Main water and electricity. Central heating. Courtyard with range of buildings. Garage. Old barn. Old-world gardens with hard court, paddock, in all about 5 ACRES. FREEHOLD £8,000 (or close offer). (12,863)

HANTS-SURREY BORDER

Station 1 mile. Electric services.

EXTREMELY WELL-BUILT HOUSE, in perfect order. 3 reception, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. All main services. Heating. Garage and outbuildings. Gardens and woodland. 5 ACRES. £4,500 or with Field of 6 ACRES (let) £6,000. (12,862)

BETWEEN ESHER AND OXSHOTT

Near extensive common land.

WELL-PLANNED MODERN HOUSE. 10 minutes' walk to station. 3 reception, 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. All main services. Garage. Matured gardens, tennis lawn. JUST UNDER AN ACRE. FREEHOLD ONLY £4,000. (12,394)

SURREY WOODLANDS

Station 1 mile. Electric services. 300 ft. up on sandy soil.

PICTURESQUE OLD ELIZABETHAN FARM-HOUSE. Fully restored. A long low house with quaint dormer windows. 3 reception, 9 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Main electricity and water. Garages. Stabling. Barn. Cottage. Lovely gardens of 5 ACRES. FREEHOLD ONLY £6,500. 10 Acres of grassland adjoining can be purchased if required. (9192)

CONSTABLE'S COUNTRY

Bounded by River Stour between Flatford and Langham.

GEORGIAN-STYLE HOUSE. ½ mile from old-world village. 3 reception, 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Main water and electricity. Heating. Garage. Stabling. Cottage. Gardens nearly 7 ACRES. A BARGAIN AT £3,250. Might let unfurnished. (12,184)

SURREY HILLS

700 ft. up. On bus route. Two stations within 10 minutes.

IMPOSING RESIDENCE (Tudor Style). 4 reception, 8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. All main services. Heating. 3 garages. Fully matured gardens, hard court, forest trees. Secluded and private. Over 2 ACRES. FREEHOLD ONLY £4,500. (7282)

HERTS-MIDDLESEX BORDERS

400 ft. up. Only 20 miles by road.

AN ARCHITECT'S MASTERPIECE. 3 reception, 10 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Main services. Heating. Garages. 3 cottages. Well-timbered grounds, grassland and woods. About 26 ACRES (valuable road frontage). FREEHOLD FOR SALE OR WOULD LET FURNISHED. (1,857)

LITTLE-KNOWN HERTFORDSHIRE

Between Bishop's Stortford and Buntingford.

ATTRACTIVE OLD HOUSE (creper clad). 3 reception, 6 bedrooms, bathroom. Main water and electricity. Garage. Picturesque thatched cottage. Gardens and meadows. 8 ACRES. FREEHOLD £5,000, or close offer. (12,864)

KENT HILLS

500 feet. Sevenoaks 5 miles distant.

FINE OLD JACOBAN HOUSE (red brick). 3 reception, 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Main electricity and water. Garage. Superior cottage. Fully stocked gardens. Grass and large arable field (let). In all 10 ACRES. £5,500 or £3,250 with gardens (2 Acres) only. (12,725)

Photographs where possible and full details of these and other Houses for disposal, apply: RALPH PAY & TAYLOR, as above.

W. S. BAGSHAW & SONS,
UTTOXETER. Tel.: 44 & 265.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Stone 1 mile. Stafford 7 miles. Stoke-on-Trent 8 miles.

THE VALUABLE FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY known as MEAFORD HALL ESTATE, near STONE, including: The Handsome and Historic Stone-built Mansion (birthplace of Admiral Sir John Jervis, Earl St. Vincent), surrounded by a finely timbered park bounded by the River Trent, delightful gardens and grounds, lake and fountain. Extensive garages and outbuildings. Lodge. 5 fertile Dairy and Stock Farms, Smallholdings, 10 Cottages, Woodlands, Shooting and Trout Fishing. Accommodation Lands. Valuable Residential and Industrial Building Sites, extending to an area of 605 ACRES, and producing a gross annual rental of £1,617 15s. 2d. per annum.

Which will be SOLD BY AUCTION (unless previously sold by private treaty) by Messrs. W. S. BAGSHAW & SONS, at THE CROWN HOTEL, STONE, on TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1943, at 2.30 p.m.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneers, W. S. BAGSHAW & SONS, Uttoxeter. Agent: J. P. STEPHENSON, Esq., F.S.I., Farley Estate Office, Oakamoor, North Staffordshire. Solicitors: Messrs. HAND MORGAN & Co., Stafford.

FORTT, HATT & BILLINGS, F.A.I.
3, BURTON STREET, BATH. Bath 4268.

SOMERSET

About 6 miles from Bath.



THIS FINE OLD COUNTRY HOUSE to be let, partly furnished or unfurnished, standing in its own Park of about 12 ACRES, with unspoilt views. 6 reception, 15 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms. Central heating. Companies' electricity and water. Inexpensive gardens.

Garages and outbuildings.

Full particulars of: FORTT, HATT AND BILLINGS, 3, Burton Street, Bath.

184, BROMPTON ROAD,
LONDON, S.W.3.

BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY

Kensington
0152-3WEST SUSSEX,
near PETWORTH

MODERNISED GEORGIAN FARM-HOUSE. Main electric light. Co.'s water. Easily run, all on two floors. 3 reception, 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Stabling. Garage. Nice old gardens, fine timber.

SMALL WOOD AND PASTURE LAND.

12 ACRES ONLY £7,000
BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY, as above

GREAT BARGAIN!!

NORTH DEVON

About 1 mile favourite resort. Magnificent sea and land views. Perfect seclusion.

CHARMING SMALL COUNTRY HOUSE. Absolutely perfect order. Hall, 2 reception, 3 bedrooms, bathroom. Main services. Loveliest gardens, of great natural beauty. Two large picturesque pools. Orchards, kitchen garden. 4½ ACRES. FREEHOLD. VACANT POSSESSION. FULLY FURNISHED. ONLY £2,450 INCLUSIVE. IMMEDIATE INSPECTION ADVISED. BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY, as above.

SOMERSET, ONLY £2,200

High up. Glorious position.

GENTLEMAN'S PICTURESQUE OLD-WORLD OAK-BEAMED COTTAGE. Inglenook fireplaces, window seats, parquet floors. Perfect condition throughout. 3 bedrooms (fitted basins), bathroom, 2 reception, excellent offices. "Esse" cooker. Garage. Gardens. ½ ACRE.

A DELIGHTFUL LITTLE RETREAT.
BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY, as above.

SOMERSET-DEVON BORDERS

Midst lovely country, extensive views. 2 large reception, 5 bedrooms, bathroom. Central heating. Electric light. Modern drainage. Every labour-saving convenience. Telephone. MODEL FARMERY

12 ACRES RICH PASTURE

IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.

FREEHOLD ONLY £2,950

OFFER WANTED.

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WELLESLEY-SMITH & CO.

17, BLAgrave ST., READING.

Reading 4112.

A FINE SPECIMEN GEORGIAN HOUSE. 34 MILES WEST OF LONDON. 400 ft. above sea level in a superb situation, with glorious views. Lounge hall, cloaks, 7/8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Co.'s water. Garage. Stabling. Cottage. Old-world garden and estate just under 20 ACRES. FREEHOLD £7,000

WELLESLEY-SMITH & Co., as above.

A HENRY VIII HOUSE. ON THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS. Near a favourite village. 3 sitting rooms, 4 bedrooms, bathroom. Co.'s electricity. Also modern cottage and walled gardens of 2 ACRES.

FREEHOLD £4,000

WELLESLEY-SMITH & Co., as above.

OUTSTANDING BARGAIN. BETWEEN GUILDFORD AND FARNHAM. £3,500. Well appointed and in finely kept garden. Lounge hall, 3 reception, 7/8 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms. Garage. Stabling. Cottage. Co.'s electricity and water. About 5 ACRES. FREEHOLD. Immediate possession.

WELLESLEY-SMITH & Co., as above.

TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley St., W.1

Grosvenor 2861. Telegrams: "Cornishmen, London."

RURAL SURREY. £5,000. Mile station (bus passes). Quiet position. Restored and enlarged. XVTH CENTURY RESIDENCE. Lounge hall, 3 reception, 2 bathrooms, 7 bedrooms. Co.'s water and electricity. Gas. "Esse" cooker. Telephone. Garage. Stabling. Barn. Inexpensive gardens, kitchen garden, orchard and paddock. 6¼ ACRES. POSSESSION ON COMPLETION.—Strongly recommended by: TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (3,190)

WELSH-SALOP BORDERS. 30 ACRES. 2 miles Salmon Trout and Grayling fishing. CHARMING SELF-SUPPORTING PROPERTY—RESIDENCE. 15 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, etc. Electric light. Gravitation water. Stabling. Garages. Farm buildings and cottage. Pleasure grounds, tennis court, kitchen garden, glasshouse and very productive parkland. BARGAIN AT £4,500 PLUS TIMBER.—TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (3,220)

£350 P.A. UNFURNISHED FOR "DURATION" INCLUDING USE OF CERTAIN CARPETS, CURTAINS AND FITMENT. **BUCKS.** 700 ft. up, delightful position. 7 miles High Wycombe. Bus service passes. BEAUTIFUL AND WELL-FITTED XVTH CENTURY RESIDENCE. 7 or more bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception, studio. Fine old barn. Charming walls and other gardens, kitchen garden, etc. About 3½ ACRES. Inspected and highly recommended by: TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (3,372)

Telegrams:
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JOHN D. WOOD & CO.

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Mayfair 6341
(10 lines).

WITH VACANT POSSESSION. SUITABLE FOR PRIVATE RESIDENCE OR SCHOLASTIC PURPOSES
HERTFORDSHIRE

18 miles from London.



ATTRACTIVE HOUSE OF GEORGIAN CHARACTER

14 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge and 5 reception rooms. Central heating. Gas, electric light and water.

¼ mile from station.

LODGE AND 4 COTTAGES. STABLING AND GARAGES. SECONDARY HOUSE (LET) AND BEAUTIFUL BARN. WALLED KITCHEN GARDEN. CRICKET GROUND FISHING ¼ MILE BOTH BANKS.

ABOUT 32 ACRES

FOR SALE AT A REASONABLE PRICE

Further particulars from the Agents: JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1.
(Tel.: Mayfair 6341.) (41,281)

FOR SALE WITH VACANT POSSESSION.

ABOUT 3 MILES FROM NEWMARKET
AND ONLY ¼ MILE FROM THE GALLOPS

THIS BEAUTIFULLY BUILT MODERN HOUSE

IN SPLENDID ORDER. APPROACHED BY 2 DRIVES,

and containing: 10 principal bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, lounge and 3 reception rooms. Electric light. Ample water. Central heating by automatic installation.

Stabling and rooms over, also garage and flat over (with bathroom).
2 lodges and gardener's cottage.

INEXPENSIVE GARDEN, HARD AND GRASS COURTS, Paddock FOR BROOD MARES, AND PASTURE, IN ALL ABOUT

120 ACRES

WITH WATER LAID ON.

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(Established 1799)

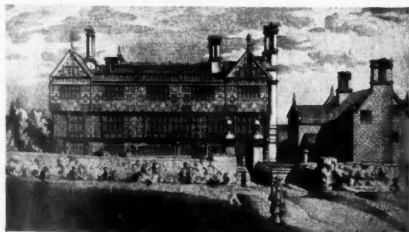
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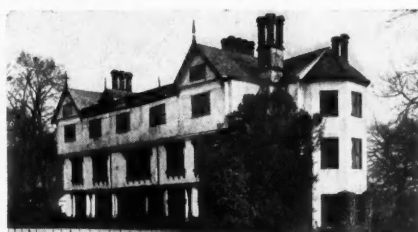
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BROUGHTON HALL, STAFFORDSHIRE



1637



1837



1937

TO BE SOLD AS AN INVESTMENT

LET ON LEASE FOR A TERM OF 21 YEARS FROM THE 8th JANUARY, 1940

LESSEE BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR REPAIRS AND RATES, AT THE LOW RENT OF

£400 PER ANNUM

AND OCCUPIED BY A WELL ESTABLISHED BOYS PREPARATORY SCHOOL.

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(Euston 7000)

MAPLE & Co., LTD.

5, GRAFTON ST., MAYFAIR, W.1.
(Regent 4685)

STANMORE

In a very nice situation.

TO BE SOLD, A CHOICE MODERN HOUSE, approached by a drive, containing: Dining room, drawing room, small study (with parquet floors), 6 bedrooms, 2 good bathrooms. Central heating and power points throughout. Large double garage for 2 cars. Grounds of 11 acres. High up with fine views.

Recommended by Agents: MAPLE & Co., LTD., as above.

NORTHWOOD MIDDLESEX

In a good position with splendid views.

FOR SALE

A MODERN HOUSE OF ATTRACTIVE ELEVATION, very well built and containing: Hall, cloakroom, most attractive lounge leading to a large loggia, dining room also leading to loggia, 4 bedrooms, good bathroom, compact offices, etc. Fitted lavatory basins. Central heating throughout. Spacious garage. Grounds of over ½ acre.

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Occupying a pleasant and most convenient situation.

TO BE SOLD

EXCELLENT HOUSE, with well-proportioned rooms, containing: Fine lounge hall, drawing room, dining room, small study, 7 bedrooms, bathroom, maids' sitting room, etc. Large garage, etc.

MODERATE PRICE

Recommended by the Agents: MAPLE & Co., LTD., as above.

VALUATIONS

FURNITURE and EFFECTS valued for Insurance, Probate, etc.

FURNITURE SALES

Conducted in Town and Country

APPLY—MAPLE & Co., 5, GRAFTON STREET, OLD BOND STREET, W.1.

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MEMBERS OF THE CHARTERED SURVEYORS' AND AUCTIONEERS' INSTITUTES

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HENLEY-ON-THAMES

IN A BEAUTIFUL POSITION COMMANDING
PANORAMIC VIEWS OVER ONE OF THE
PRETTIEST REACHES OF THE THAMES.

AN UP-TO-DATE HOUSE

with 3 large reception rooms, 8 bed and dressing rooms,
2 bathrooms.

Main electricity and water. Garage.

Terraced gardens and lawn sloping down to river with
landing stage.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Full details from: OSBORN & MERCER. (M.2362)

SOMERSET AND DEVON BORDERS

Within easy reach of Chard and Taunton.

Occupying an outstanding position 800ft. above sea
level and commanding extensive views.AN ATTRACTIVE BRICK-BUILT BUNGALOW
RESIDENCE

with 2 reception, 5 bedrooms, bathroom.

Central heating. Electric light.

Excellent outbuildings including Dairy, Loose Boxes,
Cowhouse, Barn, Garage, etc.Well laid out gardens, kitchen garden, enclosures of
pastureland, in all

ABOUT 12 ACRES

FOR SALE, ONLY £2,950

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (M.2362)

DEVON (between TOTNES and KINGSBRIDGE)

2 MILES OF TROUT FISHING IN RIVER
HARBOURNE

Capital Small Farm

including Stone-built Residence, 5 bedrooms, 2 reception
rooms, modern bathroom. Splendid set of stone farm
buildings and well-watered land, the whole in a ring
fence and extending to ABOUT 84 ACRES.

ONLY £3,300

Further particulars from: OSBORN & MERCER, as
above. (M.2344)

BROADWAY

Situate in this picturesque old Cotswold village.

To be Sold

A DELIGHTFUL OLD-WORLD HOUSE
believed to date from the reign of Henry VII and
enlarged in Jacobean times,with 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms (fitted basins),
3 bathrooms.All main services. Stabling. Outbuildings.
Attractive well matured gardens which have been the
subject of considerable expenditure in recent years, rose
garden, tennis lawn, rock garden, with stream, 2 orchards,
etc., in all

ABOUT 4½ ACRES

Full details from: OSBORN & MERCER, as above.
(17,414)

NEAR BERKHAMSTED

In the centre of the beautiful Ashridge Country, with walks
and riding over about 4,000 Acres of National Trust land.AN ATTRACTIVE SMALL MODERN HOUSE
containing hall, lounge, dining room, loggia, 4 bedrooms
(3 with lavatory basins, h. & c.), bathroom.

Main water, electric light and power.

Garage. Loose boxes.

Pleasure gardens, well-stocked kitchen garden, paddocks,
etc., in all

ABOUT 3 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Owner's Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above.
(M.2361)

SOUTH DORSET

In a delightful position overlooking Golf Course and within
easy reach of Poole Harbour.AN ATTRACTIVE SMALL MODERN HOUSE
containing hall, 3 reception, 5 bed and dressing rooms,
bathroom.

All main services. Large garage.

FREEHOLD FOR SALE AT £2,500 WITH ABOUT
½ ACRE

Full details from: OSBORN & MERCER (M.2355)

WOOLLEY & WALLIS

THE CASTLE AUCTION MART, SALISBURY

Tel.: 2491-2492

TO AUCTION EARLY IN JUNE.

THE RESIDENCE OF THE LATE CAPTAIN FORESTER.

WITH EARLY VACANT POSSESSION

THE HURDCOTT HOUSE ESTATE, SOUTH WILTS

7 miles from the City of Salisbury on the Main West Road to Exeter and Taunton. Good bus services and express trains.



Full particulars from: The Land Agent, HUGH O. JOHNSON, Esq., F.S.A., 3, Wood Street, Queen Square, Bath; or the Auctioneers' Offices at Salisbury (Tels.: Salisbury 2491, Ringwood 191, Romsey 129).

IT IS MANY YEARS SINCE AN OPPORTUNITY OF THIS NATURE HAS ARISEN IN THIS BEAUTIFUL PART OF WILTSHIRE.

A VALUABLE OASIS OF GREEN SAND AMID THE CHALK HILLS, in one of the most
beautiful and productive valleys of this delightful county. Including:THE ATTRACTIVE STONE-BUILT GEORGIAN RESIDENCE
A MEDIUM-SIZE COUNTRY HOUSEof great character and charm with modern conveniences situated amongst surroundings of
great natural beauty and finely-timbered park and grounds of 70 ACRES.

The Estate, which is all in hand, covers an area of

1,025 ACRES

with the mile of Trout Fishing in The Nadder and a lake (wildfowl) and

2 EXCELLENT FARMS (250 Acres and 300 Acres each)
in good heart and condition with good buildings. Always in hand. VACANT POSSESSIONMICHAELMAS NEXT
21 CHARMING SMALL HOUSES AND COTTAGES are of a character natural to the
countryside.

VARIOUS HOLDINGS AND ACCOMMODATION LOTS.

120 ACRES OF WOODLAND IN LOTS, showing some of the FINEST TIMBER it is
possible to grow; also GOOD MEADOW LAND. Which WOOLLEY & WALLIS are
instructed to SELL BY AUCTION in LOTS, at the RED LION HOTEL, SALISBURY.

JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK

OXFORD & CHIPPING NORTON

OXFORD
4637/8.CHIPPING
NORTON
39NO COMMISSION REQUIRED FROM THE VENDOR
WANTED TO PURCHASERESIDENTIAL FARM of from 150 TO 300 ACRES, situated within fairly easy
access of London. Modernised House. 6/7 bedrooms, bathrooms, etc. Would
take farming stock, furniture, linen, silver, etc., at valuation, as going concern.
Replies addressed to—THE PRINCIPAL, JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, Oxford, will be
treated in confidence, if desired.

WEST MIDLANDS

In an undulating, well wooded fruit-growing district.

ATTRACTIVE RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ESTATE, combining
an historically interesting and picturesque modernised XIVth Century Residence.
4 sitting rooms, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. With ample outbuildings, 2 cottages and
OVER 171 ACRES of good land.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD. FRESH IN THE MARKET.

Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, Oxford.

OXON-BUCKS BORDERS

In a pretty unspoiled village.

PAIR OF MODERNISED OLD-WORLD COTTAGES. 2 sitting rooms,
3 bedrooms, bathroom. Main electric light and power. Good water supply.
Garage. About 1 Acre of paddock, orchard and kitchen garden.

PRICE FREEHOLD £2,100

VACANT POSSESSION UPON COMPLETION.

Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, Oxford.

IN A PRETTY BUCKINGHAMSHIRE VILLAGE

Marble Arch 52 miles.

MODERNISED GEORGIAN-STYLE COUNTRY HOUSE. In perfect order
throughout. 3 sitting rooms, labour-saving domestic offices, 5 bedrooms, 2 bath-
rooms. Main electric light and power. Main water supply. Telephone. 2 garages.
1½ ACRES. Modern cottage.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD. FRESH IN THE MARKET.

Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, Oxford.

RURAL BERKSHIRE

Main line station 2½ miles.

EXQUISITE MODERNISED SMALL TUDOR FARMHOUSE. Rich in
period features. Occupying lovely unspoiled position. 2 sitting rooms, 5 bed-
rooms, 2 bathrooms. Main electric light and water supply. Telephone. Garage
and stabling. Garden. Also 12 ACRES of rich pasture land (can be let off, if desired).

PRICE FREEHOLD £4,500

Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, Oxford.

HAMPSHIRE-SUSSEX BORDERS

FOR SALE FREEHOLD AS AN INVESTMENT, WITH POST-WAR
POSSESSION OF THE RESIDENCE.FINE RESIDENTIAL AND SPORTING ESTATE. RESIDENCE OF QUEEN
ANNE STYLE. 19 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, modern conveniences. Stabling,
farm buildings, etc. Squash rackets court. 6 cottages. Woods, plantations and
arable land, in all over 413 ACRES.

GROSS RENTALS £650 PER ANNUM

Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, Oxford.

J. R. E. DRAPER

WROXHAM, NORFOLK. Tel.: 35

J. R. E. DRAPER will SELL BY AUCTION at the ROYAL HOTEL, NORWICH, on SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1943, at
12 noon the following FREEHOLD PROPERTIES all situated in the CHARMING NORFOLK BROADS DISTRICT:—CLIPPESBY HALL. A dignified GEORGIAN RESIDENCE containing: 4 reception rooms, billiards room, 10 bedrooms,
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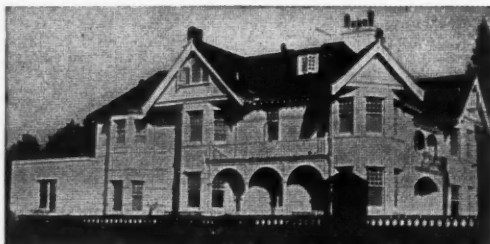
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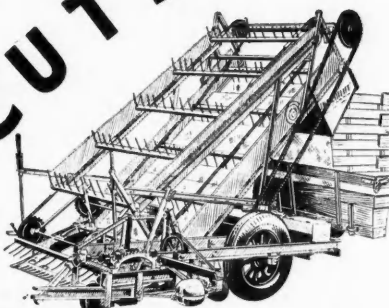
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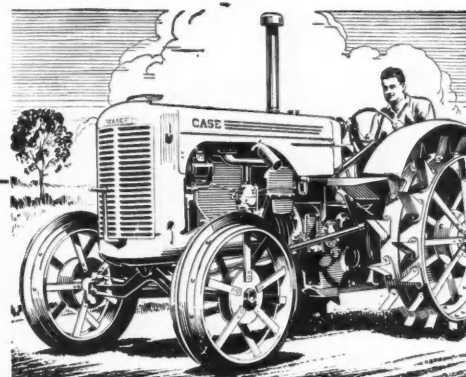


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COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. XCIII No. 2417

MAY 14, 1943



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MRS. DENIS ALEXANDER

Mrs. Alexander, who was Miss Ghislaine Dresselhuys, is the only daughter of Mr. Cornelius Dresselhuys, of Long Island, New York, and of Lady Kemsley, of Farnham Park, Farnham Royal, Buckinghamshire; her marriage to Captain Denis Alexander, Irish Guards, only son of Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Herbrand Alexander, of Loughlinstown House, County Dublin, and of Mrs. Guy Buxton, 34, Brook Street, W., took place last month

COUNTRY LIFE

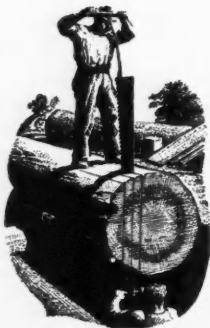
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MORE HOMES WANTED!

THE simultaneous housing debates last week in the Lords and Commons were mainly devoted to the gingering-up of the Government's (admittedly pathetic and insignificant) agricultural housing venture. But enough was said to show that both assemblies are keenly aware not only of the basic part to be played by housing in the "physical reconstruction" to come but of the need for immediately providing or reconditioning more homes—not only for farm workers. Whether or not there actually exists, as Lord Winterton suggested, a large-scale "black market" in accommodation, there can be no doubt that it is possible to do far more than has been done both in the rehabilitation of houses and in their rebuilding—and that without affecting war programmes adversely. The difficulties, due to lack of labour and materials, which face both private and public owners in keeping their property in order—quite apart from rehabilitating it—are not all of them inevitable. Lord Winterton's suggestion that the Minister of Health should appeal to tenants, and to members of the A.R.P. services who could spare the time, to form themselves into a sort of volunteer corps to deal with the necessary work (much of which consists of comparatively simple renovation) seems worth a trial. Apart from this, recent protests about the overstringency of control appear to have had some effect, and Mr. Brown was able to save his face last week by laying stress on a "recent decision of the War Cabinet" that repairs may now be undertaken on houses which, with more work, can be made habitable, and by adding that the expenditure limit had been raised from £100 to £200.

As for the agricultural cottages, Lord Beaverbrook demanded 30,000 forthwith, and Lord Addison talked about the 300,000 to 400,000 we should require in the future. The facts appear to be that, as Mr. L. F. Easterbrook says—and he should know—"not a turf has been turned, or a brick laid, or even a tender accepted, in the Government's modest programme of 3,000 cottages promised in February with the hope that they would be ready for this harvest." On the other hand, the Ministry of Health are stated to have approved of sites for 2,000 cottages and—presumably under the stress of the threatened debate—the number of approved plans shot up from 120 to 480 during the week-end. There are no doubt excuses to be made. The poor little venture is a first attempt; it is an experiment, and time must be allowed for getting our new Heath Robinson machinery of national planning into action.

Everybody must admit that the production of even 3,000 rural cottages involves some taking of thought and a good deal of administration.

But the procedure which war-time bureaucracy has evolved for dealing with this particular little building effort is surely the last word in complicated futility. It was recently described in detail in *The Times* by Sir Gilbert McIlquham whose own rural council comprises 32 parishes and has been authorised to build four cottages. Sir Gilbert's description should be read *verbatim*. Here we shall only say that apart from the six Ministries involved in turn (Health, for internal planning; Works, for elevations; Works again, for materials; Agriculture, for locality; Planning, for actual siting; and the Scottish Office), the rural council concerned is required at various stages to consult the War Executive Committee, the Assistant Lord Commissioner, the district valuer, the senior regional officer, and the allocation officer. One trembles to think of the results when this costly and overburdened procedure is applied to the great building campaign which must follow the war.

THE BATH ASSEMBLY ROOMS

MANY of the beautiful things in Bath did not escape unscathed from the two nights of "Baedeker" raids, now a little over a year ago; but incomparably the most tragic disaster was the destruction of the Assembly Rooms. It was an additionally poignant and ironical circumstance that, after the Rooms had lain comparatively derelict for years, a very large sum of money had recently been spent in restoring them with great taste and skill to their original splendour. It is good news that, undaunted by this calamity, the Bath authorities propose to restore them again, adopting in some instances a simpler form of decoration but keeping intact the plan of the ground floor and the proportions of the Rooms. It is not stated whether the lovely glittering chandeliers which added so much to their lustre have been preserved, but we may hope so. In any case all lovers of Bath will be thankful for small mercies and will not ask for too meticulous a restoration. It will be enough for them that there will be the same Ball Room where dear Catherine Morland danced with Mr. Tilney and that they will still be able to imagine Mr. Pickwick playing whist, "rather badly," against Mrs. Colonel Wugsby and Lady Snuphanuph. It was after that experience that his partner, Miss Bols, went home "in a flood of tears and a sedan chair." It is pleasant to know that we need not weep with her, but may rejoice in the courageous resolution of Bath.

THE SINGING HEART

(IN MEMORIAM, RICHARD SPENDER)

*HIS poem was a blossoming thorn,
Pricking like a Christ-crown upon the brow—*

*White flowers of beauty, alight upon a wounding
black stem,*

*Intolerable,
Not to be endured.*

To the April fields I fled for hope and solace.

*There were lambs under the hedgerow,
Sheltering from the soft warm quickening rain,
(Be happy, you silly lambs, did he not love you?).
There was a nightingale in the green coppice,
(Sing, you nightingale, true and clear and sweet
as the songs he made!).*

*There were buds of cowslip and clover,
(Clover-stem and cowslip he forebore to remember,
Out of his love and yearning, on the cross of his
exile).*

*Yet the fields brought comfort—
They were full of singing,
The singing of his heart:
One with blossom and bird and little lamb,
Born of an English spring, for whose sake he died.*

TERESA HOOLEY.

FORMING TASTE

THE Royal Academy Planning Committee, on whose revised proposals an article is published on pages 878 and 879, and the organisers of the recent exhibition *Britain Rebuilds* at the National Gallery, are concerned with matters of public taste: that is, proposals for reconstructing cities and homes involving something more than the minimum of utilitarian efficiency. Last year Professor

Abercrombie introduced to the President of the Board of Education a deputation of societies interested in the arts, which pressed for the inclusion in school curricula of instruction in this matter of taste or, as they expressed it, Education in the Appreciation of Physical Environment. On Mr. Butler's recommendation, the newly formed C.E.A.P.E. (13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1) has presented a memorandum, *The Future Citizen and His Surroundings*, to Sir Cyril Norwood's committee which is advising on secondary school curriculum, and worked out an excellent course of lectures for teachers, which has been brought to the attention of school authorities. The step is to be welcomed since, as the memorandum remarks, "in a democracy the surest foundation for a higher level of amenity in town or country is the raising of the taste of the general public." It was that that gave us our Georgian landscape and towns, and will safeguard or destroy them. One has only to think of Sweden to instance a country where a high level of amenity has been obtained in this way, and also, before the war, a flourishing export trade.

THE MISTRESS OF THE FARM-HOUSE

A RECENT decision in the Oxford County Court, allowing a husband's claim to £103 standing to his wife's credit in the Oxford Co-operative Society on the ground that this had been saved from the housekeeping money, makes one wonder how a similar issue might have been decided in the old days as between a well-to-do farmer and his wife. There was a time—it may still exist on some farms and in some families—when in many parts of England the farmer's wife, instead of being given a housekeeping allowance, was handed over a considerable part of the farm management on the day of her marriage and conducted it as her own business until she died. Mr. William Wood in his delightful book of reminiscences *A Sussex Farmer* tells of meeting a "newcomer from Cornwall" lately arrived on an adjoining farm. This good lady sadly missed the day's holiday when she went to market every week with her butter and eggs. She went on to tell him that from the proceeds of these, of the fruit, flowers, vegetables and odd sundries such as honey and jam, she paid all housekeeping expenses, tradesmen's bills, servants' wages, clothed herself and her children and paid her husband's tailor's bills, also the cost of the children's education. "So all the master had to pay," she said, "out of what the rest of the farm produced, was the rent and the men's wages." This suggests the basis of practical business sense underlying the late Lady Horner's story (recently told by Mr. Christopher Hussey in these pages) of the Somerset maid who rejected her farmer lover on the ground that she "thought he was a Harable and she never would marry a Dairy."

TONY FAIRLIE

THE death of Mr. W. E. Fairlie, always known and to be remembered as Tony, brings a deep sense of loss to golfers of an older generation who loved him for his gentle and kindly qualities. It also snaps a link with the past. He was the last of the sons of Colonel Fairlie of Coodham, himself a fine golfer, who took Tom Morris from St. Andrews to keep the green at Prestwick in Ayrshire, the original home of the peerless Young Tom. The Fairlie brothers made in their day a sufficiently formidable phalanx, for all were good players. Their name probably suggests to the modern golfer the Fairlie irons, which were designed with no heel, for the help of unfortunate "socketers." The inventor of these clubs was the best golfer of the family, Mr. Frank Fairlie, and not, as has been stated, his brother Tony. This was indeed a singularly bad shot, for Tony used an irreducible minimum of iron clubs and, clinging or returning to an elder fashion, did most of his approaching with a series of pooms and baffles with which he was extremely deft. He was never a long driver but he was a very accurate and a skilful player and a true magnificent putter with a most delicate touch. Death has been busy during the last few years among the past captains of the Royal and Ancient Club, and none of them was more affectionately regarded than Tony Fairlie.

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES . . .

By

Major C. S. JARVIS

SINCE I mentioned in these Notes that I had seen a solitary specimen of the dipper on a Dorset chalk stream many reports have been received of this bird's appearance on several other southern rivers, the Test in particular, but, as there is no record of its having bred, it would seem that these were merely reconnoitring patrols for studying the lie of the land and the food situation on the waters. It is strange that, having avoided the comparatively slow-moving, rockless streams of the south for the lifetime of the present generation at least, the dipper should suddenly take an interest in them now, and it would almost suggest that the accustomed haunts farther north are becoming overcrowded by members of the species.

One correspondent expressed the hope that these birds would not establish themselves in the south, as the variety is detrimental to trout streams, but so far as I know the delightful little dipper feeds mainly on shrimps, caddis worms and other fly larvæ, and if by any chance he should take a small fry occasionally it must be remembered that Nature makes the very fullest allowance for casualties of this description. The number of trout fry which grow to maturity is possibly less than five per cent. of the eggs hatched, so that the small quota a dipper will take will not be missed.

BOTH farmers and gardeners from all parts of England are complaining of the shortage of small birds this spring, and during the late ploughing necessitated by the extremely wet winter months there were in my part of the world practically none of the recognised wire-worm exterminators at work on the upturned sods. This in some measure might be explained by the spring ploughing this year coinciding with the breeding season when the small birds had deserted the fields for their nesting sites, the plover were down on the water meadows for the same purpose and the gulls had returned to the estuaries and cliffs.

One spring feature of a regrettable nature, which is very much more in evidence this year than usual, and which may account for the shortage of small birds, is the broken egg-shells one sees lying here, there and everywhere, marking the spot where some jay or magpie has breakfasted before sun-up. Every morning I see in some part of the garden the broken shells of thrush, chaffinch, hedge-sparrow and robin eggs, and the casualties are so heavy that it would seem doubtful if any young birds will be raised this nesting season in this small corner of the Forest, where the strident shriek of the jay is as incessant as the call of the cuckoo.

The situation with regard to jays is such that it augurs badly for the pea season which is close at hand, for, if one pair of jays should put peas on their menu cards, it requires a super hero to provide one dish for the house and the man who sowed them. The jay, however, is particularly concerned about his own safety—a state of mind with most undesirable birds—and I have found that a "near miss" with a shotgun or, better still, a hit with the result hung up on the post-icks is sufficient to keep the birds away from that part of the garden until the pea season is over.

IN these Notes recently I commented on a fisherman's fishing syndicate where the trout for the week-end's sport were put in from the stewards' Fridays and all accounted for by



E. E. Helme

HOUNDS ARE RUNNING DOWN THERE IN HORNER VALLEY

This Exmoor mare had strayed from home and her hardy week-old colt, true to his sturdy breed, was being walked back the five miles to Exford

Sunday evening, and a correspondent has capped this, as all angling stories are capped, by a story of another plutocrats' club with a similar sporting outlook. Here the rods arrived on Saturday morning at the fishing hut and, having been informed by the keeper that the fly on the water would be either the blue-winged olive or black gnat, the anglers, all of whom carried two rods, put them up with these lures attached to the casts. Then they settled down to a game of bridge at a green baize table. Sooner or later the telephone in the hut would ring and the head-keeper would answer it.

"The watcher at Woodhall Bend reports Fat Charlie rising to the blue-winged olive," he would announce to the players.

After the calling the declarer would say: "Woodhall Bend—that's your beat, Harris. Lucky you are dummy this hand. Hurry up, but don't waste too much time on him as he only leads one on by rising furiously when he knows someone is casting for him."

THIS went on throughout the morning as one rod after another went out for a few casts over the well-known characters of the water, but the game of bridge continued without a stop as one of the head-keeper's tasks was to take up the hand of a player called away.

One hears so frequently stories of some well-known trout character who lies below the old brick bridge or in the eddy under the willow, and survives season after season as no one is clever enough to get him to take. In reality I believe these trout are caught quite frequently by some means or another, but the vacancy is filled immediately by another fish of very much the same size, so that the uninitiated believe firmly that some particularly fine and artful

fellow has occupied the same position for 10 years or so. I do not know if there is any control or allotment of good stands by higher authority in the trout world, but the fact remains, if a spot has special attractions in the way of an eddy which collects all the drifting surface flies, it will be the preserve of a big fellow, however often his predecessors may figure in the casualty list.

YEARS ago when the Home Fleet had its base in Portland Roads there were two midshipmen from the flagship who specialised in catching well-known trout. With the confidence and sublime cheek of youth they would ask unblushingly for a day or days on the most carefully preserved waters and the owners, thinking that mere boys must be tyros at the sport and unable to catch many fish, would give them permission. On arrival at the water they would locate the biggest and most difficult trout in the river and work out a naval campaign to catch him. There was no question of using improper lures, as they employed the dry fly only, but their methods of presenting it were, to say the least, unusual. There was one very big fellow who lay in a certain spot where, by reason of an overhanging bough, adverse currents and eddies, it was impossible to put a fly over him. This was child's play to these junior members of the Senior Service. They employed Irish cross-line tactics, and one youth on the right bank, with his gut attached to the cast of his opposite number on the left bank, manoeuvred the fly to the correct spot and then gently lowered it on the water where it was taken immediately by the big fish. I am not quite certain if this method complies with the rule "dry fly only to be used."

GHOSTS OF THE EAST COAST

By J. WENTWORTH DAY



SPINNEY BANK, WHERE THE "BLACK DOG" RUNS



THE FIVE MILES FROM ANYWHERE—NO HURRY
Beside the Cam near Wicken Fen



THE LATE JETHRO CRANFIELD, OF UPWARE, WHO FIRMLY BELIEVED IN
THE BLACK DOG

WE were sitting in the snug, red-curtained bar of that happily-named inn, The Five Miles from Anywhere—No Hurry, which sits almost with its white-washed feet in the flood waters of the Cam. Shock-headed willows play a wind song above the red roof. And at the back the brown and reedy wilderness of Wicken Fen, where the bittern booms on nights of spring, stretches to the foot of those ancient pastures, full of owl-haunted hollow trees, where stands my 800-year old home, whose big Tudor chimneys shine like twin beacons above the level fens. We were talking of ghosts.

And on such a night in late winter, the wind howling, the flood waters lapping almost to the door, wild geese baying in the gusts, it was a fit time and place for thought of such matters.

I had said that I would take a short cut home, by the high, grassy rampart of Spinney Bank, that wall between the sighing reeds and brown waters of the fen, and the peewit-haunted cattle marshes of Spinney Abbey. I had a gun and a dog. I have walked that bank a thousand times in the last 40 years, in red winter dawns and misty fen nights.

Not a man would go with me. Not one of that rough crew of turf-diggers, sedge-cutters and dyke-dydlers would take the short cut by the bank that would have saved him a mile on the road home.

"That owd Black Dog run there, o' nights, master," said Jake Barton, spitting into the white ash of the turf fire. "Do* ye goo he'll hev ye as sure as harvest. I 'ouldn't walk that air owd bank not if I had to goo to Hanover."†

"Ne me yit nayther," chimed in two or three. "Yu recollect what happened to owd Joe Diver's sister. She up and died arter that owd Dog runned her."

That settled it. I walked the bank alone, through humped and heaving masses of slumbering cattle, under a half-moon sky, full of the skirl of curlew and the weep and wail of peewits. And no dog did I see.

But this Black Dog of Spinney Bank in Cambridgeshire is a real and devilish hound to many an ancient fenman. They will tell you that 50 years ago, when young Jennie Diver walked from Upware on a spring night to meet her young man by the black draining mill, she met, instead, a vast black hound, big as a calf, with eyes like bicycle lamps, who came lowering and padding silently at her out of the spring mist.

She turned and fled. And the Dog came loping after her, silent as the grave, fleet yet effortless, huge and menacing. The poor girl fled and collapsed, shrieking and sobbing, at the gate by the road where her young man had waited. And, though he saw no dog, they say the girl died a week later.

Some say that he runs also on the banks of Burwell and Wicken Lodes to those drowned fens where I have seen the "Will o' the Wisp" dance on hot nights of June above the steaming pools on my own duck fen.

After all, this ghostly Black Dog is no more, to my mind, than the Hound of Thor, a dim fenland echo of that mighty Norse hound of half-forgotten mythology, handed down from æons of Jutish ancestors.

He is one with Black Shuck, the ghostly hound who haunts the cliff path between Cromer and Sheringham, and, so they say about Watton in South-west Norfolk, hunts also the shades of mediæval wrongdoers who once waylaid pilgrims on the Peddars' Way where it crosses the wide and lonely brecks. They have a somewhat similar tale in Devon of a hound that runs the lonely bogs of Dartmoor.

* "Do" is East Anglian for "if." † "go to Hanover" in the Fens expresses attempting the impossible. It is obviously a throwback from early Georgian days when the House of Hanover came to the throne.



THE ESSEX SALTINGS WHERE A ROMAN CENTURION IS SAID TO WALK

—whence sprang the Hound of the Baskervilles.

East Anglia is rich in ghosts and legends of ghosts, in witches and talk of wise women. I have told before in COUNTRY LIFE of the witches of Foulness Island and the devil who threw the man downstairs one dark night at lonely Devil's House on Wallasea Island. There are plenty to-day in those coastal marsh villages who, if you were to tell them that Devil's House is simply and solely so called because in the early sixteenth century it belonged to the family of Duval, would smile slyly and secretly. And tell you no more.

But I know no explanation for the Shrieking Woman of Aylmerton Pits in North Norfolk who, so they say, comes out of those ancient British pits on moonlit nights and wanders about their edges, shrieking thinly in an agony of desolation, and waving her wasted hands to the cynical moon. She has no root either in the vanished courts of the Norse gods or in records of ancient crime.

For centuries they talked on Mersea Island in Essex of the Roman centurion who walks the Strood, the causeway between island and mainland, on moonlit nights when glimmering tides curdle at either edge of the path. Old Mrs. Pullen of the Peldon Rose told me once that his ringing, invisible footsteps had followed her one moonlit night as she walked home to her inn. Ivan Pullen, her grown grandson, told me that he heard the Feet walk round his tent on the houseless Ray Island one bright moonlit night not long ago. And no man was to be seen.

The late "Sooty" Mussett, of Mersea, swore that he heard his steps on the Ray Island one bright night and fired his duck-gun at the sound "to warm him up like."

It is but a few years ago, when a man was "scoffing about" on the top of the green mound by Barrow Hill Farm on Mersea, that the top of the mound gave way and he fell a dozen or more feet into a cave of deep blackness. In the cave they found a Roman pavement, some say an altar, the burial ground of a lost, forgotten centurion who ruled the island when the eagles gleamed and swung across the sky. The Strood into the isle of oysters and geese. So perhaps the centurion, tired of his musty tomb, does sometimes take a walk on nights of springtide moon.

horseback across East Anglia, I came across two sets of singing ghosts. The first was at Spinney Abbey, a mile from my home where, said Mr. Robert Fuller, owner of that one-time home of Cromwells: "One morning at breakfast on Low Sunday, a few years ago, we heard ghostly singing out in the stackyard, 14 ft. above the ground. It was as clear as a bell. In fact, I thought at first it was the wireless. But no—there it was, pure and sweet, all in Latin, a dozen feet up in the air—just where the old Chapel of the Abbey used to stand. What do you make of that?"

I made as much—or as little—as I did of it when, a week later, at that sweet, bright old house in Thetford called The Canons, my host, Dr. Jameson, pointing out of the window to the gaunt, silvery grey ruins of the great chapel

of the Priory of the Holy Sepulchre, at whose foot lies buried all that is left of the once mighty Hugh Bigod, said:

"One Sunday morning in May, 1937, we heard distinct singing in Latin in that roofless chapel, a whole choir singing for half an hour. Then the sound of a man's feet walking slowly up the stone aisle—it's all grass now, anyway—and a man's voice reading prayers in Latin. It was so clear that I almost heard every word. How do you account for that?"

I account for that strange story told me by my scholarly friend no better than I account for the tale, as odd, told me in 1925 by my letterless companion on many a tidal foray with the punt-gun, Charlie Stamp, the wildfowler of Canvey Island. Charlie lived right under the sea wall in a shack he built from a stranded barge. His windows looked to the misty mud flats of the Thames Estuary, shelving into the dim tide.

"I laid in me truckle bed lookin' out o' the winder of a midnight," said Charlie. "Bright moon that was, bright as day. An' I reckon I had a dream. I dreamt there was an owd feller come up over the saltin's, over the wall an' across the plank into my garden. A rum owd feller. He stood 6 ft. He had a leather jerkin on wi' a belt an' a sword and cross-garters below his knees. He had a funny owd hat on his head—like a helm that was, wi' wings on. An' long moustaches an' a beard.

"'I've lost me ship, mate,' he says. 'I want to get a ship back to me own country. I'm a lost man.'

"'Goo you up to Grays or Tilbury,' I says. 'You'll get a ship there, mate, to carry you to any port in the world.'

"He wagged his owd head an' looked at me right sorrowful. 'I count I 'on't find no ship to take me to my port. I'm a lost man.'

"An' he walked over that sea-wall, marster, an' away out on the marsh, an' I never seed him no more."

So what shall we say of the vision that appeared to Charlie Stamp, the marsh gunner who had never seen a drawing of a Viking in his winged helmet, and cross-gartered buskins—or the visions of the witches of Foulness and the devil who threw the man out of his bed one dark night on Wallasea? It is an odd world, a strange world, the coast marshes under the moon.



THE LATE "SOOTY" MUSSETT OF MERSEA

He fired his gun at the centurion's ghost

One year ago, when I set out on

THE VILLAGE AS IT MIGHT BE

By LUCILE SAYERS

Mrs. Sayers is a Magistrate for the County of Devon and Regional Officer of the Devon Central Hospital Supply Service

IN these days of planning, with Reports coming in full spate, it may seem risky to add to their number, yet the problem of village life has still to be solved. How is the everyday routine to be carried on with greater ease and efficiency, and with ample opportunities for education and social life?

Reports on post-war planning often seem to give the impression that building is to take place, not only *ad infinitum*, but on virgin soil, where no villages exist, and where a completely fresh start can be made. How strangely at variance with the facts. Towns have so far been the greatest sufferers from the blitz, and their citizens, being both the richer and more vociferous members of the community, will probably obtain labour and the very scarce materials for rebuilding before those in the villages.

EVERY VILLAGE

The questions in dealing with rural life, therefore, are questions of adaptation and additions, and in this short article no attempt has been made to discuss re-housing on a large scale. Emphasis is laid on other ways for dealing with the village as it stands to-day. Indeed, how closely does the very word "village" conjure up the picture and conform to the reality!

We all know it—cottages clustered round the church, a vicarage, a school, a chapel, a couple of pubs., perhaps some houses of the villa type, a few shops of the general variety, possibly a butcher and a baker, perhaps a village hall; such are the main outlines.

The men work on the land, the women are predominantly housewives and mothers. It is conceded by all that a rising birth-rate is a necessity to the future of England. We must, therefore, see to it that all modern developments are brought to the aid of the mother in her supreme business of bringing up children. The rearing of a healthy family must not, and need not, be an overpowering burden, though for both country men and women the daily round and common task has to be grappled with every day and at all times. Neither children nor farm stock have office hours. Both are of prime importance to the nation. It is self-evident that it is the home duties we must

seek to make easier. Nursery schools are, after all, a palliative, not a remedy.

If we ask the inhabitants of the village what is missing in village life, what lack is most keenly felt, it is not easy to obtain a comprehensive answer. Imagination is not so strong a characteristic of these village folk as is good-humoured fortitude in overcoming their age-long difficulties. The general attitude towards all the numerous questionnaires circulated by various bodies is to say "Yes" to everything, vaguely trusting that some may come to pass.

Regretfully, as some of us think, it must be acknowledged that the influence and focusing power of the "big house" has waned, as has that of the parson; nor is the school-master always in the closest liaison with the parents of the children.

The Prime Minister himself has told us that a four-year plan is a wise method of approach, and we are thus justified in assuming that, closely following the end of the war, electricity and water will be present in every village. But it would be totally unwarrantable to assume that the nation can produce the material or labour, let alone expend the money, for every house and cottage to be wired for light and power, and for good plumbing to be installed.

Let us revert then to our primary object of lightening the everyday routine.

A VILLAGE WASH-HOUSE

The most arduous task is undoubtedly the weekly wash, with its accompanying difficulties of drying and ironing. Who has not seen a cottage on a rainy day, the whole atmosphere permeated with the steam of damp clothing, and the tired housewife lamenting: "It has rained every day this week; the clothes are not dry yet, although it is now Saturday, and I got up early to wash on Monday. The children have all got colds and have been sniffing all winter."

Why not a communal laundry building, containing electric washing machines, electric irons, a drying room, and all with meter attachments for payment?

The cost to the cottager would be no greater than sending her sheets to a laundry and then toiling away at her "smalls" as is done at

present. The work of lighting and stoking in every cottage would cease, with a consequent saving of fuel and money.

It would be perfectly practicable to arrange bookings of the washing machine—Mrs. Smith would have it from 8-9 on Monday, Mrs. Brown from 9-10 and so on.

Personal cleanliness, again, is one of the problems that presses most hardly. So next to the drying room could be installed bathtubs, with a hard-fuel boiler serving the purposes of both.

What a relief to have a bath in comfort, without first drawing the water, heating it and moving the many articles that during the week have somehow or other got into the tub! With preparations for bathing the family one night, getting the husband's bath another, small wonder the tired woman does not bother about it herself.

Moreover, six baths in one building could readily be installed, but not 60 baths, with all their separate plumbing in 60 separate cottages.

Shower baths do not commend themselves to women and do not relax and refresh in the same way. In the evening the bathing accommodation could be kept for the men weary and soiled after a hard day's work on the land.

MACHINES ON HIRE-PURCHASE

It would be idle to assert that a wash-house would be a popular idea. As one woman remarked: "I don't want everyone to know what, how, when, or how much I wash either my clothes or myself." But with washing machines privacy is assured, and once the tremendous advantages had been experienced, there would, I believe, be ample support for the idea.

Washing machines and equipment could be obtained on the hire-purchase system, each user paying a subscription of so much a week above and beyond the meter charge for power. The supplying firm would service the machines, the Ministry of Health and the Rural District Councils should pay a certain proportion of the cost of building and of the equipment, on the same principle as the Act regulating the building of agricultural cottages; and the village should be encouraged to raise the rest of the sum required. With the many notable examples of what has been done in the past by women's institutes, and other bodies, in erecting village halls, finance would not appear to present insuperable difficulties.

Here, then, is a way in which two household burdens, washing and personal cleanliness, could be lightened. The next problem is food. In peace-time shopping presented few difficulties. Even if the village shops could not provide all that was required, tradesmen from the local town were assiduous in their calls and bidding for custom.

The provision of school canteens in the majority of schools gives healthful, cheap, appetising mid-day meals to school children five days a week, but questions of sound nutrition and dietetics are only beginning to emerge into family life.

A great deal must be done in the way of education on these lines. Adult education is much in the air. Is it a dream that all parents of children of school age should have to make compulsory attendance at lectures on dietetics, health and their allied subjects, so many times a month?

Evacuation brought appalling revelations of ignorance and squalor on the part of urban



Dixon Scott

VILLAGE CLUSTERED ROUND THE CHURCH: NORTHLEACH, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

mothers. Such accusations cannot on the whole be made against country mothers, but there is a definite lack of knowledge on vital subjects. Such lectures would re-awaken interest, remind those whose minds have been rusting how to listen and how to learn. Thus, from the practical and beneficial points of view, they might even form an approach to wider mental stimulation. But education is another story.

Lectures would mean the provision of another room suitable for talks and demonstrations. Equipment of the simplest—a stove, a sink, a simple demonstration bench, a table, a screen, and a blackboard—would suffice for these and many other purposes, in the forefront of which would be its use as a health clinic. So much has been written on the need for the health clinic that it seems unnecessary to elaborate further.

A WEEK'S PROGRAMME

The week's rota might run something like this:

Monday afternoon.—Health clinic with visiting doctors, for all who care to attend.

Tuesday afternoon.—Infant welfare, compulsory for parents of children under two.

Tuesday evening.—Young Farmers' Club, with simple chemistry experiments and lectures.

Wednesday afternoon.—Ante-natal clinic.

Thursday afternoon.—Dietetics and nutrition, compulsory for parents of school-age children.

Friday afternoon.—Orthopaedic clinic.

Friday evening.—National Farmers' Union, with a lecture on the latest developments in agriculture and discussions on local agricultural problems.

And so on: there is no limit to the possibilities of the network of welfare and education opened out to the rural dweller by the provision of such a room.

So far no mention has been made of the village hall itself, which should be set apart for recreational purposes completely. Thus both recreation and instruction could be carried on at the same time in the village centre. This would also do away with a possible suspicion that all recreation was tinged with an instructional bias.

For the hall itself, a good stage, cloakrooms, kitchen and servery are the first necessities. In the larger villages it might be possible to provide arrangements for showing films, but in every village an epidiascope should be provided, which could be used either in the hall or in the lecture room.

THE QUADRANGLE

As to planning the whole lay-out, one would have to search far before improving on the old idea of a quadrangle. The village hall at one end, a veranda with steps leading up to it, thus providing facilities for an open-air dramatic performance, or May Day ceremony.

Flanking the main hall, pavilions on either side. The one strictly functional, containing the lecture room, communal laundry, drying room, baths, etc. The other wing a shelter with warm aspect containing seats running round it and sliding glass doors, where people could sit and chat, or prams and bicycles could be left in the dry. Closing in the quad, a gateway with doors that could shut in the whole building at night. On either side of the gateway would be rooms, one for private interviews with doctors or lecturers, the other room devoted to books. In most villages the books circulated by the Carnegie Library remain in their boxes, and there is no opportunity for writing or study in silence, which would be a great asset for young people and children preparing for scholarships.

This presupposes a caretaker and a very excellent post for one of the many who, in this war, alas, will be disabled.

The management of this Community Centre should be an elected Council elected by the village themselves, with a few members ex officio, such as the chairman of the Parish Council, the schoolmaster, the parson, the district nurse.

No one is more aware than the writer of this article that this is but an outline—a sketch that each village would fill in differently, and to their honour be it said, many villages have already attempted.

In conclusion, three points must be emphatically stressed.

First, each village should be a self-contained unit, with its own amenities provided by such a plan as has been set forth. A centre in a neighbouring village five miles away cuts at the very root of making village life attractive and interesting, and proud of its achievements.

Secondly, the mobility which the modern ease of communications has brought about

makes it feasible for the most remote village to be brought into touch by personal contact with exponents of the most modern developments of medicine, chemical science and culture. It is infinitely better to bring the expert and the specialist to the village than the reverse.

Thirdly, there is the practical possibility of creating a building which will serve the body and mind of the villager as faithfully as his spirit has been served through the ages by the peculiar and familiar beauty of the parish church. Thus, old and new could, and should, combine to make of the village and the villager a harmonious whole, and "a full man."

THE FIRST OF THE CLASSICS

SELDOM, if ever, in recent years have the races for the Two Thousand Guineas and the One Thousand Guineas presented such an open appearance as do the contests for these events which are due to take place on the Summer Course at Newmarket on the Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. True it is that the Aga Khan's bay colt Nasrullah and Mr. M. H. Benson's bay filly Lady Sybil are the nominal favourites for the two events. They are favourites probably because they were accredited with being—as they undoubtedly were—the best of their age and sex as youngsters and also because they are, admittedly, the best of the Newmarket-trained competitors. Both are by the unbeaten horse Nearco.

NASRULLAH'S PEDIGREE

Nasrullah, foaled in March, comes from Mumtaz Begum, a three-parts sister to the Derby winner Mahmud by the Derby winner Blenheim from Mumtaz Mahal, while Lady Sybil is out of Sister Sarah, she by Abbots Trace (Tracery) from Sarita, a granddaughter of Pretty Polly. Very obviously there is little fault to find with either pedigree but, as they both are of their sire's first crop of runners, their stamina has to be taken on trust. The two "Guineas," with their mile distance, are an easy test. Last year Nearco's earliest get put up some spectacular performances and, despite the restricted racing, accounted for sixteen races. It is only the fact that he comes of the Bend Or, Bona Vista, Cyllene, Polymelus and Phalaris stirp, which has all along been more famous for ten-furlong runners than stayers, that causes hesitation. More will be known after next week.

The only other Newmarket-trained colts that need mention are Nasrullah's stable companion Umiddad, who is by that disappointing sire Dastur (a half-brother to Bahram) from the Oaks winner Udaipur; Response, a black half-bred colt by the Derby winner Felstead from Versicle, and Pink Flower. The last-named can well be termed the "story-horse" of the year.

PINK FLOWER

Bred by Lord Astor, who has the unenviable record of having bred five seconds and a third in the Derby but never yet a winner, Pink Flower is by the German sire Oleander, who won the Grand Prix of Berlin and many other races, and comes from Plymstock, a Polymelus mare who won the Trial Stakes at Ascot and the Select Stakes at Newmarket and was also the dam of the Oaks winner Penny-comequick and the Coronation Stakes heroine Sunny Devon; Plymstock was out of the One Thousand Guineas winner Winkipop, who came from Conjure, a mare that Lord Astor bought for £100 while he was an undergraduate at Oxford with the idea of breeding hunters. Plymstock was actually 22 years of age when Pink Flower was foaled. Add to this the facts that she was visiting Oleander in Germany in the year that war broke out; was only returned to England just before it was declared, and that Pink Flower was practically, if not actually, given away in his early days, and it will be seen that a win on his part would add another to the many romances of the Turf. Further, at the January Sales held at Newmarket last year he was sold to Sir Alec Black, as an unbroken two-year-old, for 18 guineas and later, at Sir Alec's death, was sold again to Captain Gilsdon for 1,050 guineas, and, in his

colours, has won all four of his races. A compact bay of rather too small stature to fill the eye as a classic winner, he is replete with courage and will beat a great many more than beat him.

FROM THE NORTH

From outside Newmarket there were "winter whispers" ament the northern-trained Red October, who is a half-brother by Solario to Big Game and cost his owner, Sir Eric Ohlson, 1,400 guineas as a yearling, but in his two outings this season he has not lived up to his Middleham reputation and is not likely to make the journey south. This, automatically, brings the southern-trained competitors up for consideration. Just for once in a way Fred Darling seems to have nothing dangerous in his string at Beckhampton. H.M. the King's colt, Tipstaff, has proved entirely unreliable and any hopes of a royal success must depend upon the running of the Hyperion filly Sunblind in the One Thousand Guineas.

Clarendon, who is the other Beckhampton classic candidate, belongs to Miss Dorothy Paget, cost her 4,000 guineas as a yearling and is a half-brother, by Camerion, to last season's wonder-filly Sun Chariot. For the "Guineas" he will probably give way to his owner's other colt Straight Deal, who is trained by Walter Nightingall at Epsom and will be ridden by Carey. Claiming Solario as his sire, he is out of Good Deal, an Apelle mare of plebeian ancestry. He reads to be the main Epsom "hope" but may find the class too good for him at Newmarket. A like remark applies to Harry Cottrell's charge Fortunate Trial, to Mrs. Laye's Fun Fair and to Mr. Redman's Harroway, a cast-out from Captain Boyd-Rochfort's stable, which made 1,650 guineas at the Second October Sales last year.

AN INTERESTING TRIO

Lastly, and they are undoubtedly the best, are the trio trained by Joe Lawson at Manton. These are Way In, Merchant Navy and Kingsway. Way In, who is owned and was bred by Lord Astor, is by the St. Leger winner Fairway from Instantaneous, a Hurry On mare; Merchant Navy, who is by the Derby and St. Leger winner Hyperion and from the Oaks winner Rose of England (dam also of the St. Leger winner Chulmleigh), was bred by the late Lord Glanely and sold at his death, as an un-run two-year-old, to Mr. Jim Hedley, a coursing enthusiast from Newcastle way, for 2,400 guineas; Kingsway, who is by Fairway from Yenna, a French-bred daughter of Ksar, was bred by the late Lord Furness and at his death sold as a yearling to Mr. A. E. Saunders, who now owns him, for 1,000 guineas. All three have given every satisfaction in their preparations; all three have been successful in their trial races, which they have won from good fields in unimpeachable style and all three will have their admirers in the paddock; but there will be some who—like the writer—will give preference to Merchant Navy as the best-bred colt in the race and one well worthy to go down in history as the winner of a war-time triple-crown. It is divulging no secret to write that he was supported to win this year's Derby before he entered the sale-ring last August by both his owner and the writer. Maybe the "Guineas" will be but a prelude to greater things. More unlikely things have happened than that Joe Lawson will train the first three in next Tuesday's race.

ROYSTON.

LONDON PLANS REVISED

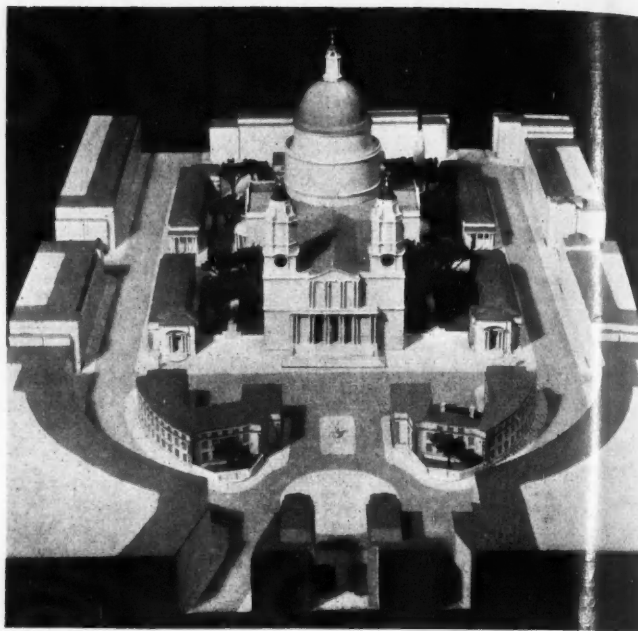
ARCHITECTURE AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY SUMMER EXHIBITION

THE larger room than is customarily allotted to architecture at Burlington House makes it possible for the Royal Academy Planning Committee to show some important revisions and developments of the proposals exhibited last winter. Modifications have been made in the light of criticism then received, while other proposals have been more fully worked out. Several of the normal architectural exhibits also bear directly on the Committee's recommendations.

The most important alterations of the Central London plan are the abandonment of the axial approach to the west front of St. Paul's with the removal of the railway which that involved; the abandonment of the proposed main thoroughfare from north-east of St. Paul's to Liverpool Street; and a rearrangement of the Ring Road in the neighbourhood of the Tower so as to provide an open space large enough to be regarded as a park north and east of the Tower—a very welcome lung in that region.

SECOND THOUGHTS FOR ST. PAUL'S

The new proposal for the surroundings of St. Paul's is demonstrated by means of a model (Fig. 1) and a composite photograph (Fig. 2). It is largely based on the alternative plan submitted last year by Mr. W. F. C. Holden, of which the main features were the retention of a vista on the western axis for pedestrians and to enable the chief view of the Cathedral thus revealed to be enjoyed in peace and quiet; and the surrounding of the Churchyard proper by carefully designed three-storey buildings to link up with the existing Deanery and give the proper scale to the Cathedral. The south vista from the river, which was such an effective feature of the original plan, is retained.



1.—ST. PAUL'S FROM THE WEST

The model, showing the three-storey buildings suggested to surround St. Paul's Churchyard



The new proposal is very much more practical than the first. The grassed western alley, not too wide and ascending by gradual steps, would be a beautiful addition to the amenities of the City in an area now devastated. The model indicates colonnades along the inner sides of the buildings enclosing the Churchyard, which one can visualise as taking the traditional place of Paternoster Row as a home of publishers and booksellers.

An important diagram shows in detail a method for replanning a section of the buildings affected by this scheme. It is shown how there could be an actual gain of at least 100,000 sq. ft. in floor space, or £25,000 per annum in lettable floor space (at 5s. per square foot) without the need of making buildings higher than 60 ft., as compared with the existing jumble of streets and yards with buildings rising to the maximum Building Act height of 80 ft. This is real constructive planning. The remarkable result attained, which is exclusive of the large basement space afforded for underground garages or showrooms, and provides an angle of light of 45 deg. in the central avenue and courtyards, should be studied by all concerned either with land values in the City, or the spiritual importance of safeguarding St. Paul's from being hemmed round with tall commercial structures.

(Left) 2.—A COMPOSITE PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING REISED PROPOSALS FOR ST. PAUL'S ENVIRONS

Ludgate Hill retained, but an axial western vista and approach for pedestrians is indicated

The question of scale, acutely involved in regard to St. Paul's, is one of the most important aspects of re-planning London or any city. If a ratio can be agreed, satisfactory in relation to existing monuments, to street widths, to users and the various complex factors involved, questions of design will settle themselves. The charming character of Wren's London was to a great extent due to the satisfactory scale as between houses and public buildings, and between the houses themselves and the streets. Its basis was the house designs standardised by the Committee of Architects in 1667. Modern needs and materials demand a revised ratio, and a more elastic one where important monuments are not involved; but the need for a humane restriction of scale is all the more necessary now that modern methods of construction have outgrown the old limitations inherent in brick, stone, and timber, and systematised in the classical Orders. The alternative is a city and its inhabitants dwarfed by the caprice of the engineer.

RE-BUILDING GRAY'S INN

A pleasant example of a reconstruction design carefully observing appropriate scale is Mr. Maufe's for the re-building of Gray's Inn (Fig. 3). The restored Great Hall sets the scale to be observed—with which the late Sir Edwin Cooper's Library (destroyed) did not fit in too happily. Mr. Maufe recaptures the quiet atmosphere of the old Court and gives the buildings additional dignity and charm with the curved flights of steps to each doorway, also providing a light semi-basement. Another excellent design for a city building, large and modern but in scale, is Professor A. E. Richardson's new premises for Chancery Lane Safe Deposit.

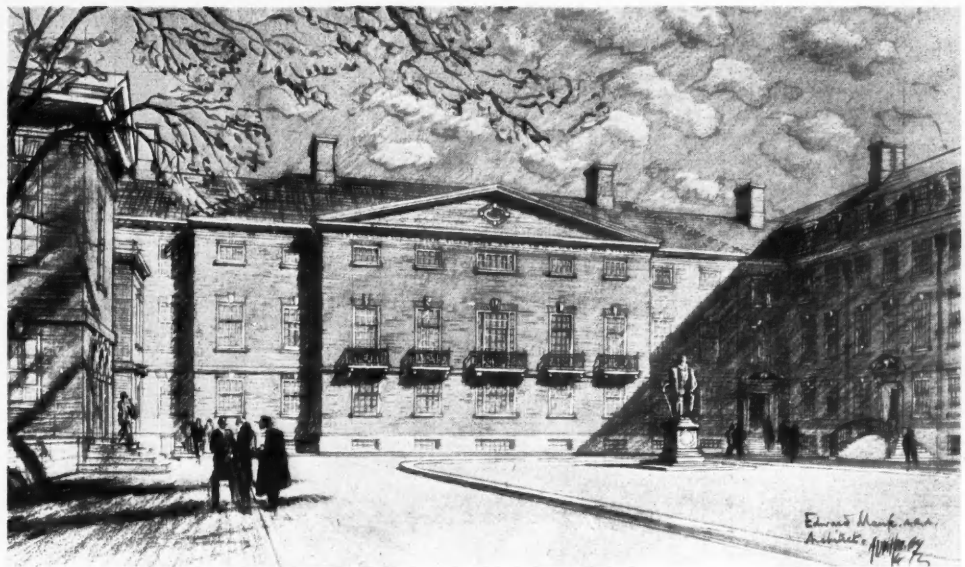
The Committee have worked out more fully their plan to divert traffic from the precincts of Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament so that the whole area can be re-designed to give a worthier character to the centre of the Commonwealth. Parliament Square is, in effect, much enlarged; the Abbey end of Victoria Street disappears; and traffic is carried round instead of through the area, in a way calculated to give greater fluidity. A trafficless, tree-lined western approach is provided to the Abbey, and Dean's Yard is opened up by the removal of the Victorian Sanctuary Buildings.

AN ABBEY ANNEXE?

The plan also shows an addition to the west end of Westminster Abbey, long desired by the clergy to serve permanently the purpose of the annexe always erected at coronations, and to contain additional burials and memorials. Sir Edwin Lutyens exhibits his design for this, independently of the Committee, and gives it the form of a Gothic chapter house on a square base. It is an excellent design in itself, but I venture to doubt whether public sentiment will ever tolerate the obscuring of the entire west front of the Abbey, architecturally unimportant as it is. Even if this obstacle is overcome, I do not think that a pointed pyramidal roof rising from low walls consorts happily with the silhouette of the west towers, or indeed with mediæval tradition. The required addition is essentially a narthex, the traditional origin of which was a rectangular forecourt.

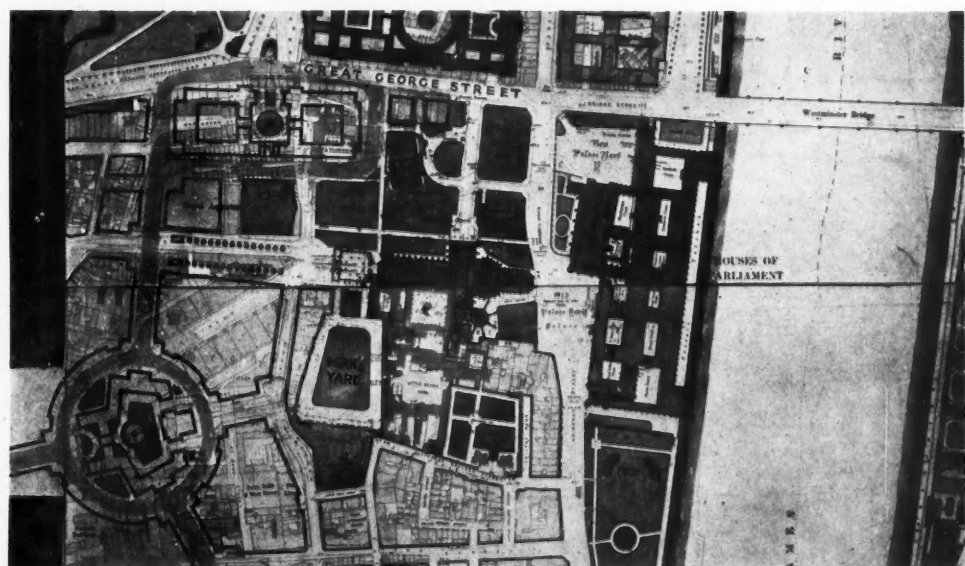
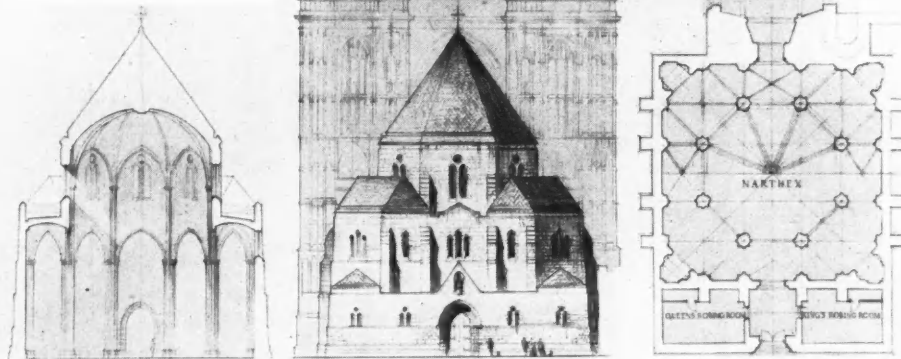
A west cloister, planned for its special needs and serving as an approach to the Abbey (and also opening on to Dean's Yard), need not obscure more the base of the west front and would, I believe, be more generally satisfactory.

C. H.



(Above) 3.—GRAY'S INN. SOUTH SQUARE: PROPOSED RE-BUILDING, EAST SIDE
Edward Maufe

(Right) 4.—SUGGESTION FOR AN ADDITION TO THE WEST END OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY
Sir E. Lutyens



5.—THE REVISED PLAN FOR WESTMINSTER. A section showing the replanned surroundings of the Abbey and Houses of Parliament. The eastern end of Victoria Street disappears, traffic being diverted, from a circus, northwards and eastwards behind Central Hall



1.—THE DEE, WIRRAL, AND THE TOWER OF LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL IN THE DISTANCE
The view northward from the terrace

GWYSANEY, FLINTSHIRE—I

THE HOME OF MR. P. T. DAVIES-COOKE

An early 17th-century house built by Robert Davies to a pattern common to several other Welsh squires' homes in the district

MOLD, the capital of Flintshire, is probably the least known of county towns. Lying between the Holyhead road through Llangollen, and the coast road through Flint, Holywell and Rhuddlan to Conway, from which it is separated by a ridge of high

ground, the little town is still tucked away on a branch line between Cheshire and Wales proper. Its good agricultural-sounding name may be derived from the Welsh name *Moel ddu*, "black hill," for the Norman *Mont Alto*, referring to the huge mound which formed the mediæval stronghold and at whose foot

the main street now runs. But the apt Welsh name for Mold was Wyddgrug, meaning "in front of a hill." It was near Mold that the Britons are supposed to have gained the "Hallelujah victory" over the Picts and Scots on March 30, 430, so called from the war cry that they adopted on the suggestion of St. Germain of Auxerre who was present on the occasion.

Gwysaney has been said to take its name from the Hosannah form of the battle-cry, but means simply "Anne's House." It is one of several in the neighbourhood of Mold built by Flintshire squires in Elizabethan times or early in the seventeenth century, and has belonged, time out of mind, to the Davies clan. Tudor rule brought settled government to the Principality—incidentally Henry VII's mother, Countess Margaret, built the noble Perpendicular church of Mold and that extraordinary shrine at the miraculous well of St. Winifred at Holywell in the county. The Welsh shires were demarcated, the farmers and squires of the Marches began to put on flesh, and John ap Davydd of Gwysanau, descended from the Princes of Powis and the third royal tribe of Wales, became plain John Davies, esquire. A stone carved "1507 R. D." is probably all that remains of a house built by his son Robert Davies on or near the site of the present one, which dates from the reign of James I.

The site is a magnificent one, and, from its being on the crest of the ridge hiding Mold from the estuary of the Dee, likely to be of great antiquity. From the town a steep drive winds up the hill among old oaks and out-crops of rock to a plateau falling almost sheer to the brook on the east (Fig. 2). Northwards, from the terrace beside the house, lie spread the tidal Sands of Dee, the low peninsula of Wirral, with the towering mass of Liverpool Cathedral clearly visible on the horizon beyond, 17 miles away (Fig. 1). To the west, across the valley, the rounded summits of Moel Famma mark the Clwyddian hills, beyond which stretches the fertile Vale of Clwydd with St. Asaph, and far away to the south (Fig. 8) the mountains bounding the Vale of Llangollen.

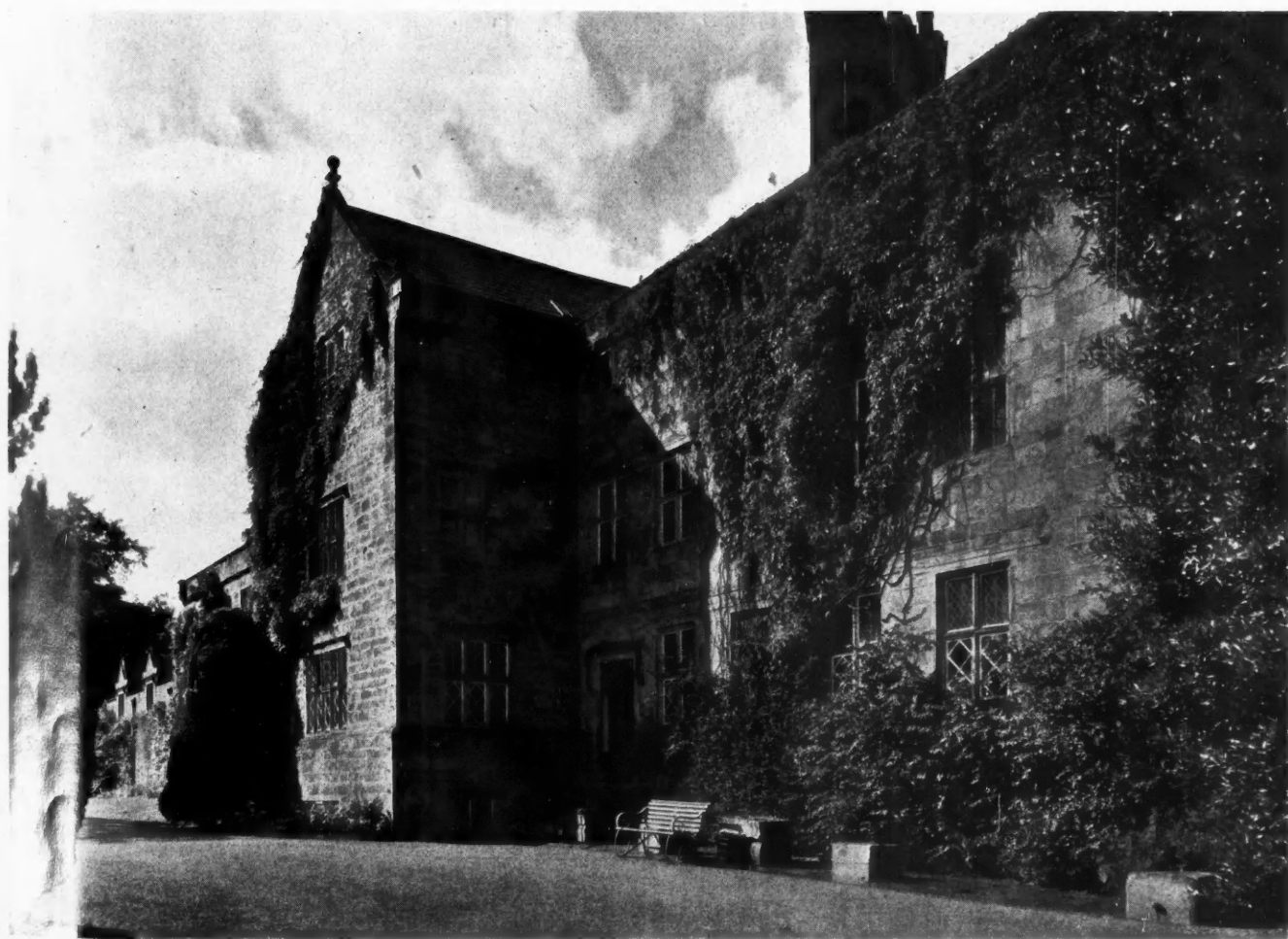
The late Tudor and early Stuart architecture of the region provides an interesting and compact field for study. Gwysaney, Rhual, Pentrehobyn, all within a short distance of Mold, to some extent Mostyn a few miles along the coast, and the vanished mansion of Llannerch in the Vale of Clwydd, of which an enchanting picture is preserved at Gwysaney, are all very much of a type and were built about the same time. They tended to be high and compact rather than



(Left) 2.—PERCHED ON ITS PLATEAU
The east end of the house across the valley



3.—THE BACK OF THE HOUSE OVERLOOKS A PARTERRE NOW GROWING BEANS AND BEETROOT INSTEAD OF BEDDED FLOWERS



4.—THE SOUTH FRONT, ENTRANCE, AND THE SURVIVING WING



5.—A 17th-CENTURY
TERRACE GARDEN
Llanerch, near St.
Asaph, built con-
temporary with Gwysaney
and closely comparable
in many respects

low, symmetrical, with short wings flanking the front and gables topped with a ball. The similarity can be seen by comparing the drawing of the reconstruction of Gwysaney as it is thought to have been before one wing and a storey were taken down about 1820 (Fig. 9), with the painting of Llanerch (Fig. 5). The type is less related to that of Cheshire and Shropshire, which one would expect to be the source of architectural ideas in Flintshire owing to their contiguity, than to some of the old halls of Lancashire and Derbyshire, or even the Yorkshire dales. This analogy is no doubt an instance of similar material, in this case magnesian limestone, begetting similar architectural forms. Cheshire and much of Shropshire produce little stone and consequently developed their peculiar form of timber construction. There is no doubt, too, that communication along the North Wales coast was predominantly by sea till a fairly late date. That remarkable early Elizabethan house in Conway, Plas Mawr, has nothing on land to link it architecturally with England—the source of its craftsmanship and design—and even has the crow-stepped gables generally associated with the sea coast, particularly with the North Sea coast.

Llanerch affords an analogy to Gwysaney all the more interesting because of the similarity of their sites. Both houses were built on high ground falling steeply to one side which, in the former case, was converted into the most dramatic terraced formal garden in the whole of Wales, excepting that at Powis Castle which it resembles on a smaller scale. Alas! not a trace of it remains, any more than there would have been at Powis Castle had the advice of "Capability" Brown (it is said) been taken. But in the sloping turf that now falls from a Victorian mansion can be doubtfully described slight inequalities perhaps representing the terraces, and a rushy marsh lies near the river below, where Neptune stood in a round pool.

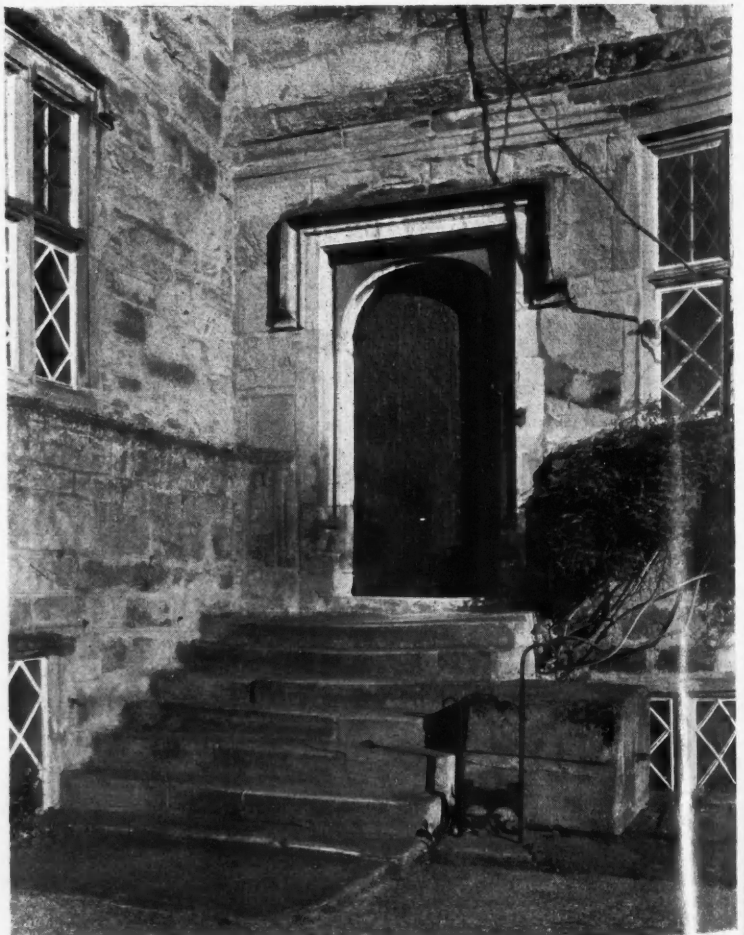
The link between the two places is strengthened when we find that both belonged to the same man; the Llanerch terraces were constructed in Charles II's reign by Mutton Davies, and but for his having inherited the home of the Mutton family through his mother and electing to live there, he might well have applied his garden architecture to Gwysaney where the drop at the side of the house offers a much grander opportunity for similar treatment (Fig. 2).

The front door at Gwysaney (Fig. 6)—the same much

patched door that was battered by Colonel Brereton's shots when the Parliamentarians reduced the place in 1645—has the date 1640 studded in nails on it and the initials of Robert Davies and his wife. He was Sheriff of Flint 1644-46, and had married Ann, daughter of Sir Peter Mutton of Llanerch, Chief Justice of Wales.

It is worth exploring the garden that

Mutton Davies—the name, by the way, is the same as Jack Mytton's—added to the Chief Justice's house. The large oil painting in the manner of Kip is inscribed *The Prospect of Llanerch taken on the East Side, 1662*. The date must be taken with reserve, for Mutton did not succeed his father till 1666, and, though he lived till 1682, the people in the picture are wearing the clothes of Queen



(Right) 6.—THE FRONT DOOR, DATED 1640, AND STILL SCARRED WITH ROUNDHEADS' BULLETS

Anne's or George I's reign and it would be remarkable to find a garden of this kind, complete with terraces, gazebos, and statuary, so fully developed before Dutch William's coming. However, one who knew them (Yorke, author of *Royal Tribes*) deposes that "the old gardens at Llannerch are within my memory, they were made by Mutton Davies in the foreign taste, with images and water tricks."

Entering the forecourt through its white palings, we get off our horses by the mounting-steps beside the stable that reaches forward from the house. A few steps lead up to the wooden front garden gate between piers with ball tops. Another gate at the side opens on to the upper terrace, with stone vases of flowers on its parapet and red brick garden houses at each end; these have pointed slate roofs topped with gilded weathercocks. From the terrace a double, semicircular stairway descends to a flower garden bedded out in formal designs and with fruit trees on the flanking walls. In the middle of the outer side, in line with the steps we have descended, is a gazebo overlooking the next level. This centres in a fountain pool and has little summer-houses in its outer corners. From the bottom terrace we can look down the slope planted with shrubs to the Neptune pool and the little bridges that would take us across the river that, higher up, has driven a mill. We cannot, of course, tell (that was the point) which was the sundial, described by Yorke, "which as you approached spouted in your face." On it was written:

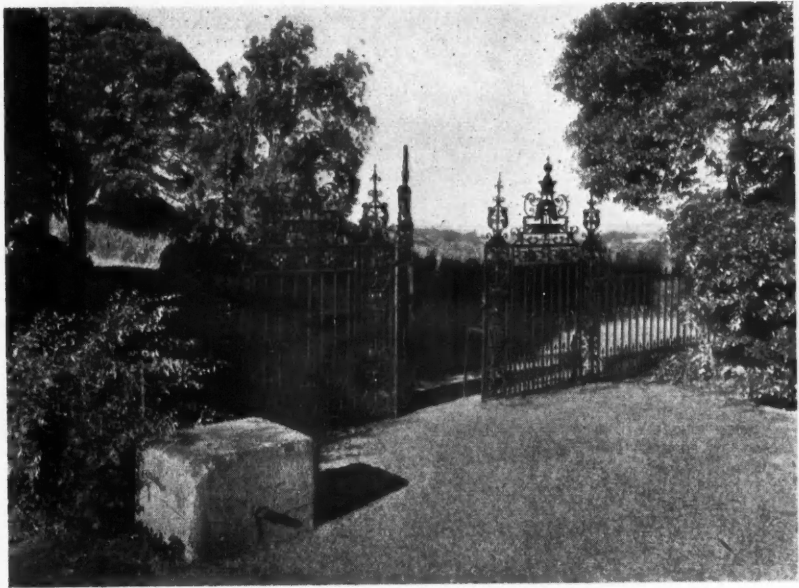
Alas, my friend, time soon will overtake you,
And if you do not cry, by G—d, I'll make you.

At Gwysaney a less spectacular formal garden lies at the back of the house (Fig. 3), enclosed on the valley side by a high yew hedge, beyond which runs a long autumn border. The formal "plat" has box-edged knots, arranged in designs round the sundial, and with paths of coloured gravels, the beds usually filled with bright flowering annuals. The illustration shows how they are doing their bit now, still quite decoratively.

At the foot of the parterre the tracery of two Late Perpendicular windows, probably of the sixteenth century, has been re-erected. These came from the east wing pulled down at the beginning of the nineteenth century, where they lighted a chapel. The reason for the demolition was a settlement of the east wall that abutted the steep slope, where a stratum of sand occurring a little distance down was probably the cause of the trouble. The previous appearance of the house is not exactly known, but a water-colour by Moses Griffiths of about 1790 shows the two wings and also that there was an attic storey. Whether with the idea of lightening the load, or because the roof had got out of order during the 150 years when Llannerch had been the principal Davies home, the roof was lowered at the same time, and half of the building at the back of the hall, of which the square-topped bay in Fig. 3 is the surviving section, was taken down too. The reconstruction suggested by a Mr. Arthur Baker in 1892 is not entirely accurate, but gives some idea of the original character.

When, in the middle of the nineteenth century, Mr. Philip Davies-Cooke of Owston, near Doncaster, to whom Gwysaney had come by inheritance, decided to make his principal home here, the truncated house proved too small, so a two-storeyed wing, seen to the left in Fig. 4, was added running westward. Though the symmetry, that is such a marked characteristic of these Flintshire Renaissance houses, has thus been lost what remains preserves the rich golden brown texture of the masonry, streaked with purple and yellow ochre. Rising on its plateau among the oak trees, with a great ilex and dark yews throwing up the gold in the stone-work, this hill-top home of Welsh squires has a massive dignity. Its mullioned windows, set in thick walls, are small compared with the great expanses of glass being provided by eighteenth-century masons contemporaneously, but their spacing on the north front (Fig. 4) shows a true feeling for design. A band of low-relief enrichment above the hall windows, now much worn, is a Welsh tradition, Gothic rather than Renaissance in origin. The fine wrought-iron screen to the terrace at the east corner of the house (Fig. 7) were turned out of Mold church, and are almost certainly the work of a Welsh craftsman of a very different order, that great smith Davies of Wrexham.

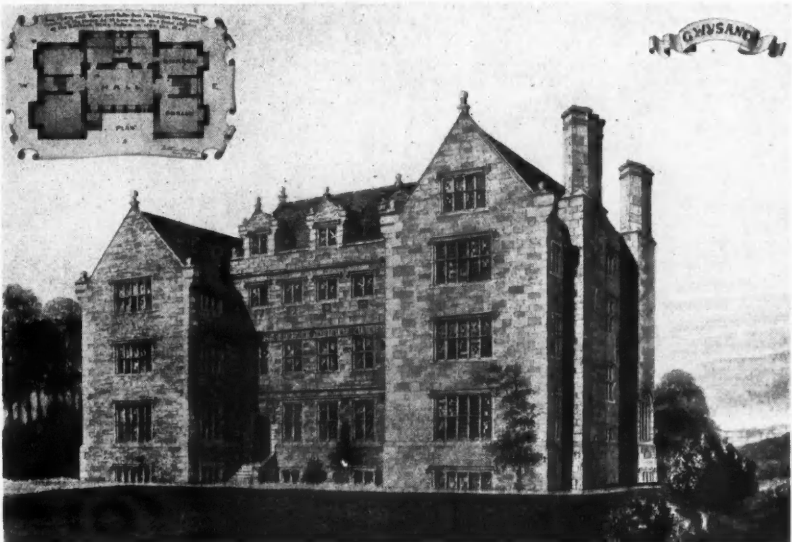
(To be concluded)



7.—THE GATES TO TERRACE
By Davies of Wrexham, circa 1720



8.—THE LLANGOLLEN HILLS GLIMPSED FROM THE TERRACE



9.—CONJECTURAL RECONSTRUCTION OF THE FRONT BEFORE
THE TAKING DOWN OF THE EAST WING

ECCENTRICITIES OF GENIUS

A Golf Commentary by BERNARD DARWIN

IT sometimes happens that, whether in search of amusement or inspiration, I gaze at my large bookshelf of books on golf and take down one at random. Too often after a brief glance at the overlapping grip, the necessity for lessons from a good professional, and other things which I have read all too often before, I feel that I would rather die than face them again, and return the book to its shelf in some bitterness. Once in a very long while, however, I find one of the possession of which I was wholly oblivious, and so it was the other day. I am certain that never before had I read this curious little book by a gentleman who had invented a kind of golf to be played on the promenade decks of liners. Mr. Edward Russell Mardon, whose now rare work on billiards I am happy to possess, was moved to write it because he wanted to describe stroke by stroke the break of 30 or so unfinished by which he won his match against a certain Mr. Porker. The motive may appear insufficient and I thought of him when I found this gentleman writing a whole book on the knocking of rubber discs into metal "holes" on a ship's deck. In fact, I found I had done him some injustice, for he disposed of his game with comparative brevity and the rest of the volume was devoted to instruction, having a strong Badmintonian flavour, on golf in general.

I daresay it was a capital game. I have had no experience of it, but I know that time can hang heavy on a voyage, and that one is very grateful for games. What did strike me was its comparatively elaborate nature. There were three different sorts of clubs, drivers, brasses and putters, whereas in my ignorance I should have thought that one would have sufficed. There was a great variety of difficulties—bunkers, hazards, hedges, ditches, hills and hollows—all made, as I gathered, of metal castings. There were likewise scoring cards having names for all the 18 holes. On some these names were those of men-of-war, on others those of the ships of different lines; if there were not enough there were suggestions for calling holes after captains, ports of call, coaling stations, mountains, islands, and goodness knows what beside. The inventor believed in doing the thing thoroughly.

How like golf this game, which could also be played on skating-rinks, may have been I do not know, but I have no doubt it was very good fun and that I should have grown becomingly annoyed when my disc, of course beautifully struck, found itself obstructed by a metal hedge. It set me thinking about other games of this sort which I have come across. I remember that, in the back ages when I first went to Sandwich, the Royal St. George's Golf Club had its own room at the Bell Hotel and in that room was a large table of green baize, adorned with hazards in miniature. I do not remember ever to have seen anybody play on it. A good many years later I was harried to a house in London—where, I know not—to see another game of the same sort by which a pathetically eager inventor intended to make his fortune. Here too there was a profusion of green baize and the most elaborate "bunkers." The clubs were made on the exact model, though smaller, of real clubs—drivers, brasses, irons and putters, save that, since the game was played on a table at almost the level of the player's waist, they must be made exceedingly flat in the lie. The inventor was painfully orthodox. He insisted on holding the small clubs with two hands and in taking his brassy through the green. I am afraid I was unorthodox, for I took only one hand and a lofting iron to all my shots. It was very deplorable but it seemed to work better and, unless I flatter myself, I beat him heavily over his own course.

That game suffered from being too elaborate; it never, I am afraid, came to celebrity or fortune, and generally speaking this kind of golf, if it may so be termed, is amusing in proportion to its spontaneous and home-made character. To play up and down stairs with a

niblick may agreeably while away a wet afternoon, but once too many clubs are invented the game loses its savour and is played no more. Much the same, I venture to assert, applies to pseudo-golf played out of doors. I am not thinking of the really good garden courses. There is one in a lovely Hampshire garden on which I have played for whole hours together with passionate earnestness; it was a most thrilling and skilful game, but then that was essentially the real thing if on a small scale. In the absence of room and material, simplicity is an immense virtue. In a small garden in Sussex I and my children, then suitably young and easily pleased, once cut a single hole in a small patch of grass between four rose-beds, and approached it from various points of the compass with perfect satisfaction. There was one hole where one began altogether out of sight of the green by the front door and the ball must first be dribbled round corners along a gravel walk; mere preliminaries but by no means unexciting ones—patrol actions as it were before the real battle began.

For sheer desperate excitement, and also incidentally for devilish skill, there was nothing like the course that had no holes at all in an Ayrshire garden. I am conscious of having written of it before, but it is a mistake to think that people remember what one writes. The course was made of the very narrowest strips of turf; the greater part of the terrain consisted of gravel walks and the sweep in front of the house, all of which were out of bounds. Whoever put his tee shot nearest to the flag won the hole, and to carry the out-of-bounds territory and yet remain by the flag was a matter not of feet but inches. When I consider the vastness of the carry across the sweep and the exiguity of the piece of turf beyond it, "that little charmed space" on which one had to pitch and stop, I wonder that I am not still there patiently dropping yet another ball because all the others have gone out of bounds. That was a perfect game and it required no paraphernalia but

some sticks for flags, a mashie niblick and an old ball.

It is a defect or, in point of variety, it may be an advantage, of garden courses that the owner of the garden regards the game as only its secondary purpose and so removes an essential hazard or makes a new flower-bed on the site of the most dramatic green. I often see—it is quite near my house—the lawn on which I laid out my boyhood's course. Alas! since my day the lawn has been enlarged by the removal of certain iron railings which were almost the making of the course. There was one hole under the shade of the Spanish chestnut, where bushes on one side and the railings on the other made the green deliciously perilous and narrow. Now that the railings are gone the most shameful hook from the tee would only involve a longer approach putt and the hole would be utterly commonplace. There was the one too, more desperate still, where the ball ran down a slope between two fir trees to a hole under the walnut; and if it ran but a little too swiftly into the railings it went with an inevitable and Gadarene flight. I hear a delightful rumour that the railings are to be replaced in their old situation, and if this be true I must ask leave to bring a club and ball there one day and enjoy an ancient thrill.

I should enjoy another on a lawn in Wales, looking down over the tree-tops on the River Dovey. It was a putting course of nine flower-pots sunk in soft moss and my grandfather, when he played on it, found it saved trouble and stooping if he counted a putt holed whenever his ball hit the edge of a flower-pot. This was a rule that made for fine bold putting, and *à propos* of boldness two old friends of mine, great golfers in their day, had a garden course at their home on which one of the chief hazards was the greenhouse. Doubtless they were adroit pitchers, but now and again there must have come the melodious tinkle of broken glass. They must have had a long-suffering parent.

A GOLD RACE CUP OF THE LATE DUKE OF PORTLAND

By E. ALFRED JONES

THE late Duke of Portland, one of the great figures of the English Turf, commissioned the distinguished sculptor, Sir Alfred Gilbert, shortly before his death, to make a cup of gold to represent the Ascot Gold Cup won in 1884 by the Duke's famous brown colt, St. Simon, one of the greatest racehorses and sires, which he bought for 1,600 guineas.

In the same year the Duke of Portland won the Goodwood Cup and his first Derby with Ayrshire, as well as the Two Thousand Guineas. In this year, too, the two-year-old Donovan won him 11 races and £26,000. The Duke's historic year as a winner was, however, 1889, when Donovan won the Derby and the St. Leger and nearly £40,000 in stakes, while Ayrshire secured the two £10,000 races at Kempton and Sandown. In that year appeared the first of the St. Simon stock, which continued to provide winners for the Duke, including Raeburn, Mrs. Butterwick, Amiable, William III winner of the Ascot Cup in 1902, and Darley Dale.

The general form and decoration of the Cup are founded upon the Dutch national flower, the tulip, in allusion to the ancestor of the Duke who founded the family in England. Hans William Bentinck accompanied William, Prince of Orange, to England in 1670, and was Envoy to England in 1677 to arrange the Prince's marriage with the Princess Mary of York. As a great favourite of the Prince after his accession to the English throne he was

honoured by the appointment to several offices of dignity in the Royal Household and in 1689 he was created Baron Cirencester, Viscount Woodstock, and Earl of Portland. He served as lieutenant-general at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690 and in 1696 he was created a Knight of the Garter. The first Earl of Portland died in 1709 and was buried in Westminster Abbey. Some very rare old Dutch silver by Nicolaes Lookemans, a celebrated goldsmith of The Hague, was brought over from Holland by the future Earl and is preserved at Welbeck Abbey. This then is the history of the late Duke's Dutch ancestor.

To return to the Gold Cup. It is 25 ins. high and the approximate weight is 130 oz. of 18-carat gold. The finial is in the form of a ship, not gold but of silver-gilt. Enamelled on the Cup are four coats-of-arms of the late Duke and the Dowager Duchess, and of the present Duke and Duchess, then Marquess and Marchioness of Titchfield. It is inscribed on the octagonal foot in gold letters on a dark blue enamelled ground:

THE WORK OF ALFRED GILBERT TO REPRESENT THE ASCOT GOLD CUP WON BY THE DUKE OF PORTLAND'S BROWN COLT ST. SIMON, 2 YEARS OLD, IN THE YEAR 1884, THE ROOT AND FATHER OF MANY EQUINE KINGS

The gold in the Cup came from a ewer, modelled by C. B. Birch (1832-93), the sculptor, which has been melted, and in the finial is the silver from a flagon and cup won by St. Simon at Goodwood and Gosforth Park in 1884, both of

which have been melted. The present writer was privileged to see part of this historic Cup being wrought by the sculptor in the studio granted for his use by King George V at Kensington Palace.

The late Duke was the winner of three more race prizes of gold, namely, a facsimile of the celebrated Portland Vase, representing the value of the Epsom Gold Cup of the year 1884, and a rose-water ewer and basin, as the Ascot Gold Cup for 1902, won by the Duke of Portland's William III, four years old, by St. Simon—Gravity, ridden by K. Cannon. This horse was the winner of the Doncaster Cup in the same year. The third gold prize is the King's Gold Vase, Ascot, 1919, won by the Duke's chestnut colt, St. Silonyx, three years old, ridden by V. Smyth. The Vase was not made expressly for this race, but was wrought in 1915-16.

The Duke inherited three race prizes of silver, won by that great sportsman, Lord George Bentinck (1802-48), whose racing was "on a scale that perhaps has never been equalled" (Disraeli). They consist of a group of St. George and the Dragon, made in 1838 by Garrard's as the "Ascot Gold Cup" and won by Grey Momus, by Comus, three years old, ridden by W. Day (most of the "gold racing cups" are

of silver-gilt). The second is the Cheshire Welter Cup, 1845, won by the same owner's b. g. Naworth, by Liverpool; and the other prize is a group of a wounded dragoon, also by Garrard's, "the Surrey Cup (handicap) or piece of Plate," at Epsom, 1845, won by Lord George Bentinck's b. c. Croton Oil, by Physician.

Two cups were won by the Duke of Portland's Mowerina—the County Cup at the Lewes Summer Meeting in 1882, made by J. B. Hennell in 1879-80, and the Molyneux Cup at the Liverpool Summer Meeting in 1882, wrought by Garrard's.

St. Simon's other cups were the Newcastle Gold Cup, Gosforth Park, 1884, when he was ridden by C. Wood, and the Goodwood Cup of the same year, also with this jockey, both made by Garrard's. In this interesting collection are also the Manchester Cup for 1900, by Elkington, won by La Roche, by St. Simon—Miss Mildred, ridden by K. Cannon, and the July Cup, Newmarket, 1891, won by Memoir, and J. Watts, jockey. This cup was of earlier date, having been made in 1806-07 by Joseph Preedy, a London goldsmith.

Most of these prizes will be remembered as shown at the National Sporting Trophies Exhibition at Shell-Mex House in 1933.



GOLD CUP. Made for the late Duke of Portland by the sculptor, Sir Alfred Gilbert, to represent the Ascot Gold Cup won in 1884 by St. Simon

THE SOMERSAULTING STOAT

I WAS driving my car slowly along a Devon lane early in October, when I noticed a solitary rook behaving in an unusual manner. It was diving and fluttering down towards the earth, then rising again, again diving, flapping with its wings and cawing excitedly. On the road, about 100 yds. ahead, some leaves were being stirred by the wind. This I was only vaguely aware of, but I noticed among these leaves what I first took to be a larger leaf, and this was thrown (so I supposed) so high into the air as to seem quite out of

ordinary occurrence. I at once stopped my car and sat still. If I had not been in a car and could have stood motionless by the side of the road, I would probably have witnessed an interesting scene. As it was, I saw only a fragment, for motor cars are not calculated to be good vantage posts for nature observers.

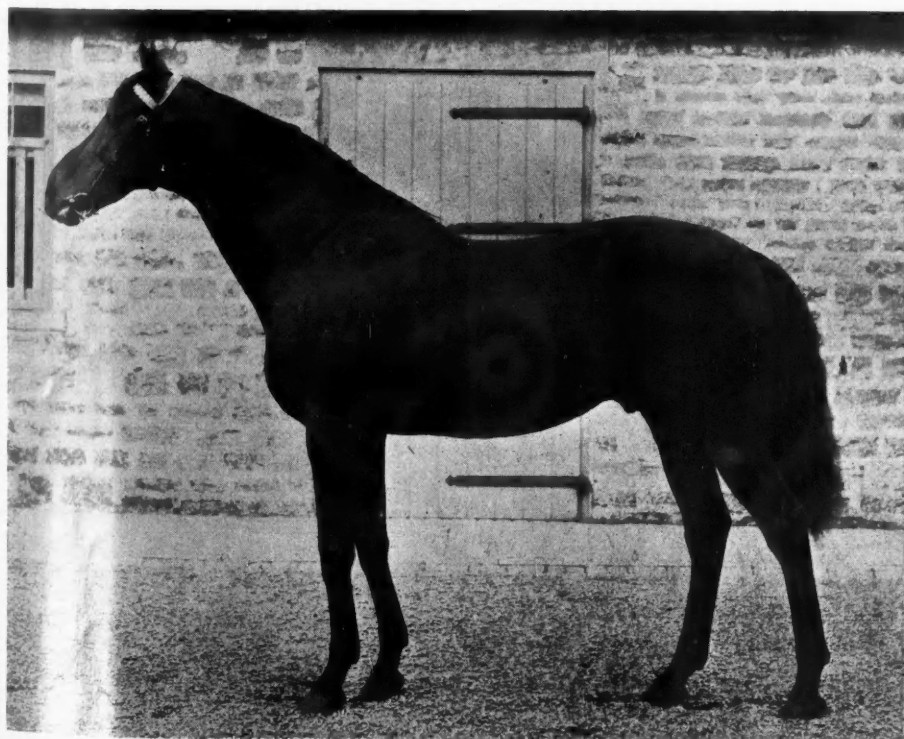
What at first impression I had taken to be a large leaf now revealed itself to be a stoat that leaped into the air and turned somersaults, showing the pale yellow of its belly. It seemed tossed by the wildest energy, and my next

thought was that it was trying to defend itself from the rook that was diving and fluttering above it.

So they continued for a few moments; and now I noticed that the stoat was making no effort to escape into the cover that the leafy banks of the lane afforded. He kept his position, moving to and fro across the roadway.

It was, I think, the presence of my car which drew the rook's attention from that which seemed so passionately to hold it. With an extra loud caw, it broke from the spell of contest and flew away. The stoat remained in the road; he had not seen me and continued a few more capers, then leisurely ran up the steep bank, and here remained till I came level with him. I gave a mouse-squeak, and he responded. Certainly he gave no sign of fear.

I have read of occasions when stoats have been seen dancing and capering in the presence of small birds such as chaffinches, hedge-sparrows or wagtails. This they do to excite the birds, which come nearer and nearer, until at last they are within capturing distance, but I have never heard of a stoat trying to lure, from out of the sky, such a large bird as a rook, and this is what I believe was happening. I do not think a rook, which is not a carnivorous bird, would attack a stoat unprovoked. I can only suppose that the stoat had been able by some especially high-flung caper to attract the rook's attention. The reaction, as in the case of smaller birds, would be indignation at such behaviour. Hence the divings and the earthward flutterings. If my car had not clumsily come into view, the end of the episode might well have been that in the trough of an especially low dive, stoat and rook would have met in a fatal embrace, of which the issue would not have been long in doubt. GRANT WATSON.



THE LATE DUKE OF PORTLAND'S FAMOUS HORSE ST. SIMON, "THE ROOK AND THE STOAT," AND WINNER OF THE ASCOT GOLD CUP IN 1884 COMMEMORATED IN THE CUP SHOWN ABOVE

IN THE HAMPSHIRE TRADITION

LORD PORTAL'S COTTAGES AT FREEFOLK

THE Government's decision to give priority to houses for agricultural workers draws attention to a group of cottages begun just before the war, and completed after its outbreak, by the present Minister of Works and Planning in his private capacity as Squire of Laverstoke. Examination of them is instructive on several accounts. The homely grace of these private estate cottages contrasts with anything that the State has ever put up, either since the war began, when materials are so short and costs so high, or at any other time. On the other hand they show the kind of house that a good country landlord has always tried to build for his tenants, and that Lord Portal, in particular,



1. and 2.—IN THE VALLEY OF THE TEST

The thatched continuous contours of the new cottages and (left) semi-detached cottages which they replace

found so pleasing that the whitewash was not applied.

In all other respects the detailed treatment is full of delightful touches, traditional, but giving personal character to the work. There are features directly reminiscent of Sir Edwin Lutyens's vernacular buildings, such as the columns of old brick in the loggias, and the brick mullioned window (Fig. 3). At the angle of the gable wings a useful modern device is the corner windows. The windows throughout the main elevation are leaded lights in metal casements set in wooden surrounds painted white.

The houses consist in eight parlour and ten non-parlour cottages, all with three bedrooms and a large scullery with bath; the former letting at 8s. 6d. a week, the latter, for agricultural workers, with a kitchen-living-room, and let at 5s. Most of the parlours and living-rooms

personally regards as the ideal for rural reconstruction; such, no doubt, as he would like to see his Ministry building or prescribing in rural areas, whatever conditions and finance actually permit. These Freefolk cottages, too, are a happy contrast in their use of English materials and tradition, to some modern adventures in the same line.

Freefolk—an apt name for this Saxon village on the Test headwaters, which the etymologists tell us means just what it says—is on the Basingstoke-Andover road at the opposite end of Laverstoke park to the famous paper mills established by the Portal family. Early last century a number of picturesque semi-detached cottages were built in the floor of an old chalk pit north of the road and river. It is these that have been replaced by new ones standing well back from the road, with the ground-floor level some 5 ft. to 7 ft. higher. They were pulled down one by one as the new buildings were completed to receive their tenants, their bricks being used for the plinths of the new cottages and steps up to them.

These consist of 18 houses forming a continuous "terrace" facing south across the valley, the lay-out suggestive of the site's contours. The whole range is subdivided into a series of bays, separated by projecting gables at several points, which contribute to the privacy of the houses in each bay. Through passages at convenient intervals give access to the back premises in the old chalk pit. The lovely continuous roof, of Norfolk thatch on the south side, of tiles at the back, unites the whole range, covering its projecting and re-entrant contours like downland turf. The roof silhouettes, varying from every point of view, culminate in pleasantly ample brick chimney stacks.

Thatch is a vernacular roofing stuff of the Hampshire and Wiltshire chalk valleys; and the wall construction similarly makes use of the characteristic downland materials, brick, half-timber framing and weatherboarding. The construction throughout is brick cavity walls, the lower storey faced with rusticated Flettons

in running bond, which were originally intended to be distempered white (toning with the weatherboarding and thatching) and with coloured window-shutters and doors in contrast. Where the thatch does not come down to the brickwork, weatherboarding or half-timbering face the upper storey, the white gable ends being related to the proposed whitewashed walls, with the weatherboarding extending the shadow cast by the wide overhanging eaves. The texture of the brickwork, however, was



3.—EIGHTEEN UP-TO-DATE DWELLINGS UNDER A SINGLE ROOF

From outside Nos. 3 and 4 (see plan) looking east

have a southerly aspect, except two looking respectively east and west in the end cottages; and when, as in four cases, a loggia comes in front of them (Fig. 5), the parlours also have windows at the back. The sculleries each have a back porch with w.c. and coals opening off. All the bedrooms have through ventilation, and the majority windows back and front; the main bedroom in each house has a fireplace, and the parlour-type houses have roomy first-floor landings. All houses have main water, light and drainage.

No little ingenuity has been shown in the planning, which gives convenient and straight-forward accommodation in every house, besides yielding such effective external grouping. The architect was Major Arthur E. Mort, chartered architect, of Winchester, the builders Messrs. A. J. Sapp and Son, of Basingstoke. The total cost for the 18 cottages was £13,000, working out around £750 per cottage on the average, and recovering the net cost in about 45 years.

Thus, regarded as an investment, the undertaking can give only an insignificant financial return. But a country landowner receives his interest in other ways: contented tenants, labour to help run the estate, and pleasure in a job well done. And the public shares his reward in that a stretch of country is kept productive and pleasant to the eye, while every passer-by gains a heartening picture of rural England. Lord Portal has, indeed, described what he, as landowner, gets out of these cottages. He recently told the Royal Institute of British Architects:

"The thing that has given me the greatest pleasure I have had in my life is the work of the architect who built me what I think is as beautiful a type of cottage as any in the country. If I get back home on Saturday night, I always go down on the Sunday morning to look at these cottages. There is something very satisfying about seeing where you would like people to

live, and how you would like to see them live."

That spirit has done more in the last hundred years or so to add to the beauty and well-being of our villages, than many people realise. Death duties and taxation make it difficult for the landowner to act up to it nowadays, but the spirit is there, and it is reassuring to know that the re-building of Britain is at present in the hands of a man whom these cottages show to possess that spirit so signally.

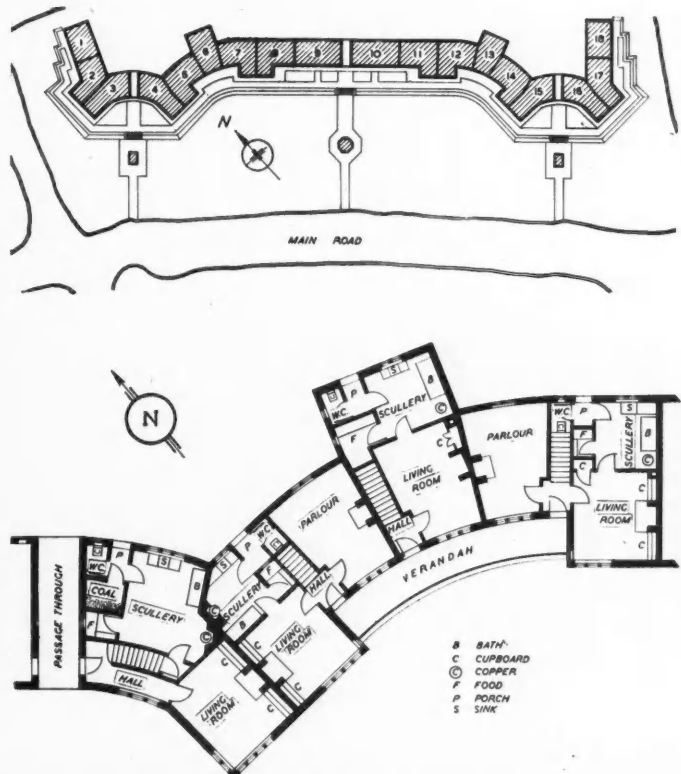


4.—TRADITIONAL FORMS AND MATERIALS ARE PERFECTLY CONSISTENT WITH "ALL MODERN COMFORTS"



5.—BRICK PIERS AND PAVING IN ONE OF THE CURVED VERANDAHS

Rooms under them have another window at the back



6.—SITE PLAN, AND GROUND FLOOR ARRANGEMENT OF TYPICAL PARLOUR AND NON-PARLOUR TYPES (Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7)

Features include ample cupboards, roomy back porches, indoor w.c.s.

CORRESPONDENCE

WOMEN AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SIR,—I have been much interested in Mr. Harley Usill's article *Where Are To-morrow's Councillors?* (April 30). Your readers may care to hear what the Bristol Branch of the National Council of Women, of which I am President, are doing to arouse interest in the question of local government. A leaflet has been published as follows:

"How much do Bristol women know about the Local Government of their own city?"

"What part do you play in Local Government?"

"What would happen in your own area if there was no one who took an interest in Local Government?"

"Could you answer the following questions:

How is your Council elected?

How does it work?

What is the Committee of the Council on which women are by law required to be appointed?"

How can you make your needs known to the Council?

How could you get on the Council?"

There has been an encouraging response not only from women but from the older girls in senior schools, and a series of discussion groups have been arranged during May and July when the speaker on each occasion will be one of the city councillors, all of them experts on their special subject. The subjects chosen are:

(1) The City Council. (2) Education. (3) Public Health. (4) Social Welfare. (5) Housing. (6) Public Security.

We hope in this way to arouse interest in the government of our city, and so to find some future councillors among our younger women.—HAIDEE BLACKBURN, 7a, Great George Street, Bristol, 1.

THE COURTAULD FAMILY OF SILVERSMITHS

From Sir Ambrose Heal.

SIR,—In the article by Mr. E. Alfred Jones which appeared in your issue of April 23 the portraits and plate of the Courtauld family of silversmiths were admirably presented. It may be of some interest to supplement this article by a few notes on the various trade-cards which were used by these makers. The earliest one I know is that of Samuel Courtauld senior, the son of Augustine Courtauld, issued about 1740 while he was still in Chandos Street. The engraving depicts the sun rising above a mountainous landscape, set in a rococo cartouche. Below this shop-sign is the text:

SAMUEL COURTAULD, goldsmith & jeweller. At the Rising Sun in Shandois Street, St. Martin's Lane, London.

On his death in 1751 Samuel Courtauld was succeeded by his son Samuel who removed the business to the Crown, opposite the Royal Exchange in Cornhill, subsequently known as No. 21, Cornhill, where he issued an elaborately engraved trade-card of quarto size displaying his newly adopted shop-sign of The Crown. After his death in 1765 his widow Louisa Perina (née Ogier) took sole control of the business until she was joined in partnership by George Cowles in 1768. I have a bill headed:



TRADE-CARDS OF SAMUEL COURTAULD, circa 1751, (above) AND OF GEORGE COWLES

See letter "The Courtauld Family of Silversmiths"



A CIRCUMZENITHAL ARC SEEN AT HARPENDEN IN APRIL
See letter "The Circumzenithal Arc"

LA PA COURTAULD, jeweller, goldsmith E.c. At the Crown in Cornhill, opposite the Royal Exchange. (No. 21.)

which was made out in that year. A billhead of Courtauld and Cowles is dated 1778 but it was just about that time when Mrs. Courtauld was joined by her son Samuel (III) and George Cowles set up for himself only a few doors away, at No. 26, Cornhill. His trade-card at this address describes him as "G. Cowles . . . late partner with Mrs. Courtauld." Subsequently he removed to No. 30, Cornhill, and in 1790 he is found trading in Winchester Street, Broad Street. The London Directories give no entry of young Samuel Courtauld after 1781, so presumably it was about this time that he went and settled in America. He died at Wilmington, Delaware, in 1821.—AMBROSE HEAL, Beaconsfield.

THE CIRCUMZENITHAL ARC

SIR,—In view of the recent correspondence on the subject of the circumzenithal arc I enclose a photograph taken in Harpenden on April 15 by Mr. B. H. B. Wright. The arc in question was one of the largest that I have seen, extending at least 12 degrees across the sky. It lasted for fully one hour, and changed and developed in colour and length from minute to minute. A suggestion was made that the arc had been started by the vapour trails of aircraft, and it would be interesting to know from a scientific point of view whether this is possible.

This is the second of these arcs that I have seen this year.—C. D. BARRETT, Winchmore Hill, N.21.

[The phenomenon mentioned by



NEST OF SONG-THRUSH
See letter "A Song-Thrush's Nest"

our correspondent has been observed by several others from Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Hertfordshire, and Hampshire, also from Whipsnade. From their descriptions it is obvious that the arc was very brilliant, with a red hue at one edge, and concave above. A spot of light not so brilliant appeared at the same time, where a mock sun might have been expected. One correspondent has suggested that the appearance might have been part of a "mock sun ring," though its shape and colour make this doubtful. Another observer states that vapour trails from an aeroplane flying a little previously had formed something like cirrus cloud, which was still in existence when the arc was visible.—ED.]

A SONG-THRUSH'S NEST

SIR,—It seems to be unusual for a song-thrush to leave out the usual plaster round the inside of its nest, but here is an example of the omission. It is not lack of material, for there are two other nests within a few yards of this one, which are lined in the usual way. The pieces of white, rotten wood which are generally worked into the plaster, were, however, carried in and may be seen on the floor of the nest.—ETHELBERT HORNE (Right Rev. Abbot), Downside Abbey, Bath.

FLAT ROOFS FOR COTTAGES

SIR,—There is much to be said in favour of flat-roofed cottages, but I have found it a great advantage to let the eaves overhang the walls. Parapets are a source of weakness, and seldom improve appearance. I enclose photographs of cottages, semi-detached, built 1920, when prices were four times 1914 costs, on a hillside with, as planned, an uninterrupted



A GROUP OF FLAT-ROOFED COTTAGES BUILT IN 1920

See letter "Flat Roofs for Cottages"

"view" east, west and south.—
RETIRED ARCHITECT.

AN UNUSUAL MATING

SIR,—On reading the letter in your issue of April 23 about a tufted drake mating with a mallard, I said to my wife: "What will the result of the mating be?" She replied: "A mallard imaginaire, I suppose!"—GEORGE BAMBRIDGE, M.C. (Captain), *Wimpole Hall, Cambridgeshire*.

SARDINE-TIN STYLE ARCHITECTURE

SIR,—The sardine-tin style was invented in Munich shortly after the last war. It is very popular in Germany and has been taken up in Sweden, Japan and several other countries with enthusiasm. The fact that most of us in this other Eden, demi-Paradise, do not care for it, is of no importance. We have got to have it, I understand, and may as well make the best of it and learn to like it. And when, our old homes having been destroyed or condemned, we gaze at the new structures,

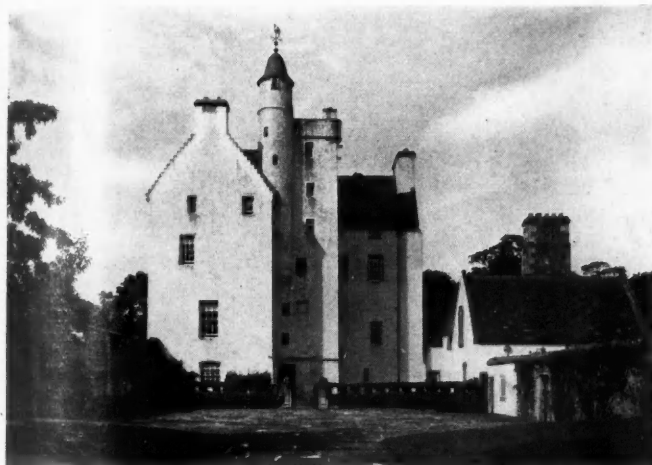
of June, 1942, I observed while hay-making a hedge-sparrow's nest, and it being easily attainable I decided to note its contents. Much to my surprise two of the eggs of the clutch were revealed to be cuckoo's eggs. I should be very grateful if you could inform me if it is characteristic of this indolent bird to deposit more than one egg in its victim's nest.

The hedge-sparrows deserted and I was unable to observe the results if the cuckoo's eggs had hatched.—C. KNIGHT, *Brimscombe, Stroud, Gloucestershire*.

[It is most unusual to find two cuckoo eggs in one nest, and when, as in this case, two are found, it is almost certain they are the result of two cuckoos trying to victimise the same pair of birds. It is hardly surprising that a double visitation was too much for the hedge-sparrow.—ED.]

BALMANNO CASTLE

SIR,—Your correspondent in his letter on Balmanno Castle (March 12) does scant justice to the genius of Sir Robert Lorimer, so evident in this



"THE FIRST VISION OF THE WHITE HARLED TOWER SEEN WHEN THE GATES ARE OPENED"

See letter "Balmanno Castle"

fingering our long, but unfunctional, Victorian beards a little sadly, let us be brave and forget the past, remembering only this, that when peace comes and with it our eagerly renewed attempts at fraternisation with the enemy, the new architectural style will at least be very pleasantly and appropriately foreign and, what's more, very pleasantly out of date.—KEITH HENDERSON, *Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire*.

THE NIGHTINGALE

SIR,—In regard to nightingale song at the Easter week-end: in central Berkshire I heard my first nightingale of this year about 9.30 on the evening of the 20th, and my second about 3 in the afternoon of the 23rd. Nightingales were reported to be in song at the Hampshire-Wiltshire-Berkshire junction on the 18th. A few years ago there seemed to be a tendency for nightingales to extend their range both northwards, beyond the Peak District, and westwards, beyond Brecon and also into Devon. It would be interesting to know whether any observations on the subject have been made during the war. One old county superstition states that nightingales will not nest in areas where there are cowslips.—J. D. U. W., *Bradley, Berkshire*.

TWO CUCKOO EGGS

SIR,—During the cuckoo on April 12, the first time this season recalled, an interesting fact to my memory. During the latter half

architect's alterations at Balmanno Castle.

Could we have again, please, photograph No. 25 of the COUNTRY LIFE book on Lorimer, showing the view looking through the dark archway of that most charming new gatehouse and entitled *The First Vision of the White Harled Tower seen when the Gates are Opened*. The way all the good in the old dour tower has been brought out and the way the new low additions, with the serene new forecourt, have made a composition of extreme significance is indeed a lesson for us to-day. As Mr. Christopher Hussey has said, in Lorimer's early days "there was no living tradition of architecture in Scotland until he unearthed and assimilated it."

It is entirely due to Lorimer that Balmanno Castle is not a mere restoration, but is a vital growth out of the fine Scottish tradition and, in the opinion of one Englishman at least, is now one of the great works of art of our country.—EDWARD MAUFE, *Buxted, Sussex*.

A RESCUE

SIR,—You may perhaps care to publish this photograph. It commemorates a most heroic rescue of the sheep-dog seen in the photograph, from a ledge of the 500 ft. sea cliffs of Talisker on the west coast of Skye. The shepherd Donald Cameron (on the extreme right of the group) was out with his two collie dogs and when near the cliff summit a fox sprang from the heather ahead of him. Before he could call off his dogs, all three had gone over the precipice. One of

the dogs, and the fox, had gone to their death, but the second dog in some wonderful way had succeeded in regaining its footing on a grassy ledge about 300 ft. below the summit. The fox could be seen lying dead on the rocks below.

Several unsuccessful attempts were made to rescue the dog. Eight days after the animal fell to the ledge, Mr. W. V. Wood, Customs and Excise Officer, Portree, a member of the Junior Scottish Mountaineering Club and a skilled climber, assisted by a lad of under 18, John MacDonald, Talisker, made their way down the cliff

until they found a narrow ledge 18 ins. wide which led them to a point 12 ft. short of a point immediately above where the dog was lying. The rescuers were in a precarious position, for the rock was rotten and was falling all about them. After all their labour the rescue seemed hopeless, but the thought occurred to John MacDonald to prolong the ledge. With a pickaxe and with a rope to help him keep his balance, he and Mr. Wood succeeded in cutting out a ledge in the cliff face. When they had at last reached a point above the dog, Mr. Wood was lowered to the animal some 35 ft. below them, made the dog fast with ropes (the dog seemed to realise they were doing their best to save it and kept very quiet), then made his way back to the ledge. After a rest the two then pulled up the dog. It was now almost dark and it looked as though they would have to remain on the ledge all night, but with great skill they succeeded in getting the dog and themselves up the rock. The dog has now quite recovered. The rescue in the cold and stormy conditions of a Hebridean winter must have called for unusual skill and perseverance. The figures in the print are Inspector Stoddart of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, John MacDonald, Mr. Wood, and Donald Cameron.—SETON GORDON, *Upper Dunluism, Isle of Skye*.

CHESTS AND COFFERS

SIR,—To comment on Mr. R. W. Symonds's interesting articles on chests and coffer, I have never seen the chest in Cowthorpe Church, near Wetherby, Yorkshire, here illustrated, but it seems a worthy addition to those examples published with your recent article on chests and coffer.

This fine old chest, Tudor period, with canopy beautifully carved with fleur-de-lis, is very large, especially for so small a church. It is thought to have been used during Passion Week as an Easter sepulchre.—J. A. CARPENTER, *Harrogate*.

A CRAYFISH'S TOILET

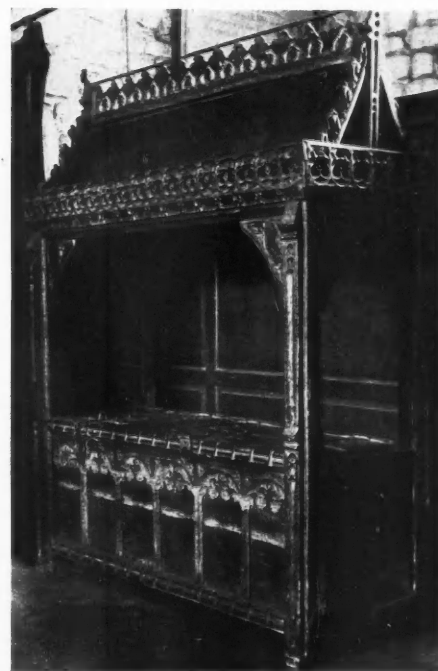
SIR,—*A propos* the interesting details given by Miss Frances Pitt, in COUNTRY LIFE of March 5, as to how certain animals and birds perform their toilets, it might be mentioned that even creatures actually living in water find it necessary to clean themselves, and do so instinctively much in the same way as beasts and birds.



THE COLLIE WITH HIS RESCUERS

See letter "A Rescue"

I have watched a crayfish in an aquarium perform the whole process. It began by grasping its long antennae between the foremost pair of short legs, which are situated between the great claws. Then it drew the feelers upward till they were bent like fishing-rods holding heavy fish. It repeated this operation several times, until satisfied that the antennae were clean from base to tip. Next the back was carefully scraped with the hindmost pair of legs, but these could only reach as far back as the third segment, and I wondered how the final segment of the back, and the still farther-off tail-plates, would be dealt with. However, what was a problem to me was simplicity to the crayfish. Doubling its tail inwards and under it easily reached the final parts and cleaned them like the rest. The same legs were used for the forward part of the back, and the space behind the eyes, which was very carefully examined, the eyes themselves being, also, thoroughly rubbed over. But these were only preliminary operations, so far as the eyes and head were concerned; for the third and fourth pair of legs, which are provided with weak claws, were next used to comb again all the forepart of the crustacean's head, and the bases of the antennae, the eyes also being again exhaustively examined and moved about on their stalks with great persistence. Finally, the large claws received attention, by being bent inwards and well scraped, though the flutings upon them could not be



A CHEST WITH A CANOPY AT
COWTHORPE, YORKSHIRE

See letter "Chests and Coffer"



SUSSEX HONEY FOR THE SUBMARINE CREWS

See letter "Sussex v Kent"

made so clean as the rest, and these flutings were the only parts of the creature which, at the end of the toilet, showed a slight skin of grime which could not be removed.—J. C., *Dumbartonshire*.

SUSSEX v. KENT

SIR,—A challenge from Kent to Sussex has resulted in the production of over 1,800 lb. of honey—given free—for British submarine crews, and it is likely that this example will be so widely followed that there will soon be enough honey for a regular issue to every submarine in the service.

Kent's challenge to Sussex was for a competition between the two counties to see which could produce the most honey in a year, commencing in April, 1942. Returns just received show that Sussex has won by 1,015 lb. to 816 lb.

The most productive area in the two counties was Worthing, which contributed 260 lb.

Mr. J. V. Johnson, chairman and treasurer of the Worthing Division of the Sussex Bee-keepers' Association, explained that the honey is issued to men of the submarine crews in 2-lb. tins. "We know by their letters of appreciation how much they like it," he said. "Smoking is not allowed in submarines, and that, plus the privations of the life generally, makes delicacies such as honey all the more important. We bee-keepers are honoured by being able to help these gallant men."

He added that it is probable that many other counties will follow the lead of Sussex and Kent, and Sussex is expecting to be strongly challenged this year. Mr. Johnson has 30 hives now, double the number he had before the war.—H., *Brighton*.

FOXES "AT ROOST"

SIR,—In the bitter cold of January, 1942, I was walking along a hedge-row which contained one or two oaks: in one of these I noticed a fox curled up fast asleep in a nook formed by one of the bigger branches and the trunk of the tree. While I was staring at this fox, I caught a glimpse of another which was running down a large branch towards the trunk: when it neared the end it took a big leap to the ground and ran off across a wide expanse of field. Then I woke the other fox which was curled up asleep. It got up and stared at me in astonishment for a while, jumped to a lower branch, ran towards the thinner end, hesitated for a moment, then took a handsome leap of about eighteen feet, which fairly bowled it over when it landed; the fox picked itself up and ran off in the opposite direction to its companion.

The next day I paid another visit to this oak. There was one of the foxes again, curled up asleep in the very same nook. It soon woke up, leapt down and made off quickly.

That night I found out from the owner of the estate on which this tree was situated that a fox had two nights

before stolen and eaten one of her peacocks. There seems no doubt that one of these foxes was responsible.

It seems to me peculiar that a fox should spend the day in cold weather "roosting" in a tree about fifteen feet from the ground. Surely most foxes would protect themselves against cold weather by living in an earth?

I should be interested to know of any similar incidents about foxes.—GEOFFREY KEITH, *Sing's House, St. Edward's School, Oxford*.

[It is by no means uncommon for foxes to "go to roost," especially where large old trees afford easy climbing,

and a fox that is used to doing so will return most devotedly to his perch. The fox has a thick, dense coat, and so long as its resting place is dry, does not seem to feel the cold. This was evidently the case with the ones seen by our correspondent.—ED.]

UNUSUAL WAR MEMORIAL

SIR,—You may be interested to publish this photograph, which shows a



PART OF YPRES CLOTH HALL CLOCK IN A VILLAGE WAR MEMORIAL

See letter "Unusual War Memorial"

unique war memorial. It is at Westwell, Oxfordshire, and my photograph shows a section of the village Memorial Cross. In this is embedded part of the clock of the Ypres Cloth Hall.—F. R. W., *Bristol*.

A SELF-GRAFTED TREE

SIR,—In the ancient burial ground of the MacNabs at Killin, Perthshire, there is a Scots fir with one of its largest branches in an extraordinary position. During a storm it was snapped off near its junction with the trunk, but instead of falling to the ground, it was intercepted in some way, and remained fixed diagonally against one side of the trunk,

with the broken end extended upward for several feet at a sharp angle to the left, while the foliated end (which is still growing quite normally) extends far down to the right towards the ground. How the heavy branch came to be arrested in its fall in this curious way it is difficult to guess, as the tree stands almost perpendicular and there is no sign of any projection, however short, which might have served to catch the falling branch at the point of junction. Whatever the cause of the original adherence may have been, it has long ago resulted in the complete growing together of the branch and the trunk, so that the



THE TREES OF DUNDEE

See letter "Official Vandalism"

former is apparently just as well nourished as if it never had been broken off. The caretaker of the place could not tell me when this remarkable instance of self-grafting occurred; but the tree was like that when I saw it first, more than 22 years ago.—C., *Milngavie, Dumbartonshire*.

OFFICIAL VANDALISM

SIR,—In the past the citizens of Dundee have earned an unfortunate reputation for treating their trees in a thoroughly unintelligent manner. Either they have planted them so close together that they have not had a chance to develop in a shapely way, or they have pruned them so drastically that they have become mere caricatures of what they should be.

Some years ago (1934) you published a photograph showing an example of this official vandalism, the mutilation of trees in a Dundee street. A much worse case, which deserves the same title, has just occurred.

Up to a few weeks ago one of the best known buildings in the city, the Albert Institute, which houses the museum, picture gallery and public library, was surrounded by about a dozen Oriental planes of unusual height and grace. Although a few had been somewhat mangled by previous pruning, the majority were beautiful trees.

The Town Council for some unknown reason decided that they should all be felled, and their place, after the air raid shelters are removed, should be taken by flower-beds; and in spite of considerable opposition, the work has gone on. My photograph shows the appearance of the place as I write.

The many sons and daughters of the city, absent in the Forces, who still keep in touch with local doings by means of such papers as *COUNTRY LIFE*, will, I am sure, share the regret of all sensibly-minded citizens at this example of vandalism on the part of the "City Fathers."—T. LESLIE SMITH, *Broughty Ferry, Angus*.

THE POUNDS OF ENGLAND

SIR,—Travelling along the Norwich-London road recently I was struck by a finely preserved example of one of those almost forgotten relics of old-time agriculture, the village pound, in which straying cattle were enclosed. This one stands at Newton, about six miles from Norwich.

Most pounds, unlike the one mentioned, are now mere ruins of tottering walls and rickety gates, with nettles where the animals should feed. Alas, one cannot point out the most notable pound in English literature, the one in which Mr. Pickwick was imprisoned, but an excellent well-cared-for one stands in Davy, Copperfield's village, Blundeston, Suffolk. Another can be seen, in good condition, at West Wycombe, and is the property of the National Trust.

A good story is told of a pound at Oxford. Two centuries back a humorous fellow established an inn near it, announcing: "Ale Sold by the Pound." His ale was as good as his jokes, and the undergraduates resorted thither and stayed beyond college hours. The Vice-Chancellor was asked to take the inn-keeper's licence away.

He called the fellow to him. Imagining that he did sell ale by weight, he said to the inn-keeper: "They tell me that you sell ale by the pound: is that true?" "No, and please your worship." "How do you then?" asked the Chancellor. "Very well, I thank you, sir," replied the wit, "how do you do?" The Chancellor laughed and said: "Get away for a rascal: I'll say no more to you."—E. R. YARHAM, *Marsh House, Roughton, Norwich, Norfolk*.

AT DAGLINGWORTH

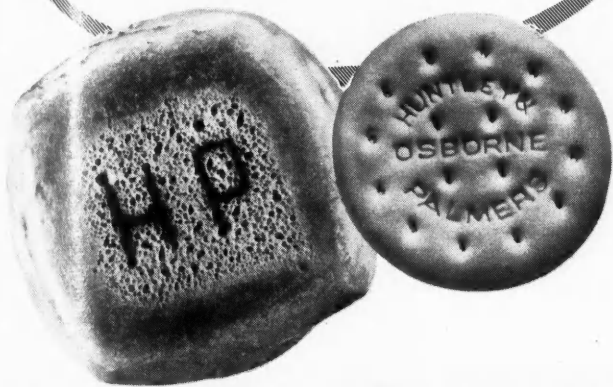
SIR,—I enclose a photograph of a Saxon carving at Daglingworth, Gloucestershire, representing Christ in Judgment. It was found with two others when the church was heavily restored in 1845, having been built into a wall, no doubt at some earlier alterations. The church was no doubt of early foundation, for a Roman inscription on a re-used stone was probably incorporated in Saxon times.—M. W., *Hereford*.



A SAXON CARVING FROM A GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHURCH

See letter "At Daglingworth"

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FARMING NOTES

PLOUGHS THAT LIE IDLE

AS plans are being made for breaking a still further acreage of grass land to bring it into arable cropping it becomes more than ever necessary that we should make the fullest use of the machinery, particularly the tractor machinery, that is available. I have mentioned before that supplies of tractor ploughs are short of requirements, and as the United States and Canada, as well as ourselves, are now concentrating all their energies on the production of tanks, guns and other war material, it seems unlikely that there will be much increase in the numbers of tractor implements that farmers can buy. New implements are being allocated by the War Agricultural Committees to those farmers who need them most, and the most urgent demands should be met in this way. But it seems very clear that better means must be devised to make full use of every implement in the country.

I HAVE just received a letter from a reader who states that in the early days of November he had cause to pass through a neighbouring county where the local War Agricultural Committee have one of their machinery depots. He was wanting a three-furrow plough himself and so was interested to see at this depot four new Oliver ploughs. He also saw some other machinery, including ploughs of larger and smaller types. There were altogether about 20 ploughs as well as other machinery. In April he passed that way again, and to his amazement three of the four Oliver ploughs were in exactly the same position as they had been when he was there before and apparently

unused. In fact, he says grass was growing up between the shares. There were still a large number of ploughs there, including two-furrows, three-furrows, four-furrows and one five-furrow plough, many disc harrows and a number of Fordson tractors. Making local enquiries he was told that this machinery had stood at the depot through the winter and had not been used at all. He continues: "Unfortunately for myself there appears to be no method by which I, coming under a neighbouring county War Agricultural Executive Committee, could obtain use of one of these ploughs, which apparently did not work throughout the busiest winter season for most farmers."

THIS seems to me a strange state of affairs, and I have made some enquiries which confirm that these tractors and implements were not used to anything like the full between the autumn and the late spring. Apparently all the ploughing in this district was on heavy land which was turned over in the late summer and early autumn, so the Committee had no use for these ploughs and they were left idle. Yet this correspondent badly wanted a three-furrow plough during this time, and I know that, at home, we could have made excellent use of two four-furrow ploughs during the spring. It does seem that better arrangements could be made, at least between neighbouring counties, for the loan of machinery that is for a time surplus in one district. Now the War Agricultural Committees must have large numbers of implements, and I have no doubt that for the most part they are used to good account, but

evidently there are some instances of bad distribution.

MR. JOHN GREEN gave farming listeners a stimulating wireless talk the other evening on livestock improvement. He started off by reminding us that the County Committees had been instructed by the Minister of Agriculture to pay much more attention to livestock. They had been given additional powers to tell the farmers what they should do in breeding policy and management. Despite the high prices that we see paid every week for pedigree cattle of exceptional merit, it is a fact that there are not enough dairy bulls to go round. At the same time there are many excellent dairy cows, possessing valuable factors for milk production, whose progeny go for veal or beef. In the case of the home-bred, commercial dairy herd the owner keeps heifer calves from the highest yielding cows but does not always appreciate that even better dairy bulls would give him better progeny that would raise his milk output. At the present time too many of the bulls used in dairy herds are of unknown ancestry. They may look all right and they may satisfy the livestock inspector at licensing time, but no one really knows whether they have the factors for high milk yield as well. Mr. Green mentioned a large dairy of good type Shorthorns where the only bulls used were Herefords. This farmer was perhaps giving good services by producing better beef cattle which will be more and more wanted to consume the surplus straw and waste foods in the fattening districts, but was he justified, when he knew the performance of a dairy cow, in not

using a bull of known dairy quality? Mr. Green's view was that a yard of dairy heifers would be of more use to the country than a yard of beef stores.

THE Ministry has suggested to the counties that when beef bulls are being used on dairy herds of low-yielding capacity the bull should be Hereford or Angus bulls which colour-mark their progeny. This would make it easier to differentiate in the markets between cattle suitable for beef as opposed to those valuable for milk production. These beef bulls should be put to the worst milking cows. That pre-supposes milk recording, because we cannot know which are the worst unless we record.

IT is not just the individual personality or overweening local pride of the local stock-breeders that has given us so many types of cattle. There is a variation in conditions in this country which is experienced in few other places in the world. It is no doubt this that has made British livestock, as a whole, so adaptable to overseas conditions; Devon cattle settling down happily in Australia, Shorthorns in the Argentine, Sussex cattle in South Africa, and so on. Mr. Green gave a warning about the oft-repeated phrase that we have the best livestock in the world, and after the war everyone will be panting for it. He would rather say we have the best soil and climate in the world if we choose to use them to good advantage in stock-breeding. He might have added that Britain has some of the finest stockmen in the world who, like their forerunners, have an eye for the type of beast that is wanted.

CINCINNATUS.

PROGRESS



"IFORD CACTUS 64th"

(Bred and owned by Mr. J. Harris Robinson, Northese, Rodmell, Lewes, Sussex).

IT is interesting to compare this fine modern Shorthorn with animals of the same breed of 20 years ago, one of which is also depicted below. Iford Cactus averaged no less than 10,053 lbs. of milk with her first six calves—a remarkable performance, which demonstrates what the care and skill of the modern farmer can do.

Shorthorns, as a breed, have been in existence since about 1600, and were bred for beef as well as milk. Since the formation of the Dairy Shorthorn Association in 1905, the breed has been milk-producing only, and careful mating and breeding have been a great help in bringing about higher milk yields and greater butter-fat production.



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THE ESTATE MARKET

VALUE AND PRICE

CAN the value of real property be fully expressed in terms of money alone? The question is suggested by the appearance in the market of one of those freeholds, rare enough, of which a pretty complete financial account has been kept during 200 or 300 years. It begins with a purchase almost 300 years ago, and may shortly be brought up to date with a fresh sale, on terms which may possibly be revealed. On one side of the account must be put the purchase money, the various sums expended on maintenance and so forth, and, on the other, the rents actually or hypothetically derived from the occupation of the property, and when the place changes hands, the amount of the purchase money. All that is as the matter presents itself for book-keeping, but, as a true measure of the essential value, it is generally speaking wholly inadequate, for it takes no account of the use and enjoyment which maybe one generation after another of the owners and occupiers have derived from the property. Who could estimate that with any exactitude? Who could assess the worth of the peace of mind that the owners may have enjoyed in holding real estate in periods of general and widespread depreciation of other securities? And, to name only one more aspect of landed property, who would evaluate the advantages of what has been called territorial importance?

FOR £8,000 IN 1650

AMONG the many calculations that might be made concerning an outlay of £8,000 in 1650 for a mid-Kent estate one would be a comparison of the price then paid

with what happens to be the present market value. Another would be the yield of £8,000 at various rates of interest for nearly 300 years. Assuming that such an investment could have been made for so long, and the money accumulated, it would to-day be a stupendous sum. But it would be merely money; nothing for its owners in the meanwhile but the pleasure of seeing £ s. d. mount up year by year. As represented by a house and land in mid-Kent, it has been of service throughout the period, in productivity and occupation, and at length coming into the market, may realise enough money for important new uses.

Archæologia Cantiana some time ago collected a wealth of information about James Master, who bought what was then called Yokes, Mereworth, the estate now in question. He kept a diary, or "expence book," in which he entered everything from a "red cloak: item £5" to a few shillings lost at cock-fighting, and, of course, minute details of expenditure on his new landed acquisition. For some time, according to his diary, Master stayed at the farm-house of his tenant on occasional visits to Yokes. By the end of 1658 he had had built for his own occupation a house, of which a few months earlier he had got one Vezy to "make a drawing," in other words, to be the architect. There he lived until 1689. One of his grandsons soon after 1767 "almost rebuilt" the house, by that time renamed Yotes, "laying out the grounds in a modern and elegant taste." So much of the earlier house can still be traced that the term "rebuilt" was almost as fanciful as that of "elegant," applied to the original

lay-out of the grounds. The house has been brought into accord with present-day ideals of comfort, and it is offered, with 185 acres, by Messrs. Nicholas, Mr. W. C. May being the surveyor. The vendor is Lord Torrington, the estate having for many generations belonged to his family. The history of Yotes is authenticated as far back as the reign of Henry III, and it is striking how often the families that have held it have failed in the direct line. At one time, for this reason, it reverted to the Crown, and the next recorded owners bore the name of Jotes.

ACTIVITY IN DORSET

RECENT sales of Dorset freeholds include the Dorchester residence in 3 acres of the late Colonel Herbert Scott Williams, Rothsay House, for £6,750. The last of 44 bids was on behalf of a local man. Avenue House, Dorchester, realised £2,200. Manor Farm, at Chickerell, 4 miles from Weymouth, a house, buildings and 50 acres, has just changed hands for £3,700. Pasture fields in the same district have made up to between £60 and £70 an acre.

Shrewsbury sales have included that of a farm of 52 acres, at Aston Pigot, for nearly £50 an acre. Cheshire farms, 17 acres at Alsager, for £2,500, and 98 acres at Cholmondeston, for close upon £8,000, are among those that have been dealt with lately. Recent transactions in Somerset farms include the sale of 150 acres, a few miles from Taunton, for £6,500, and many lots of orchard and pasture, in the neighbourhood of Bridgwater, over 90 acres in all, for close on £8,000. It is customary now to refer to farms in occupation as "for investment"

when a sale is contemplated, and the demand for them continues quite keen, but it is still the farm with immediate rights of entry that commands most attention and the higher range of biddings.

FUTURE OF A MANOR

THE old-fashioned charm and architectural merits of Tong Hall and the cottages, on the estate of roundly one square mile, in the vicinity of Bradford, have made it a matter of more than local concern, during the last few weeks, the property having come into the open market. In the Estate Market page of *COUNTRY LIFE* on March 26 it was mentioned that a proposal to acquire the property had been put before the City Council of Bradford, but on April 9 the news was given that the Huddersfield Industrial Society had bought Tong Hall from the Bradford Property Trust. However, the members of the Bradford Civic Society and the Georgian Group have not given up hope of some arrangement being reached whereby the finely panelled mansion, built by Sir George Tempest 240 years ago, may be preserved.

Since the break-up of the West Holme Manor Estate, near Lulworth, about 550 acres of it have been divided into lots of from 5 to 20 acres for cultivation as small holdings, and Mr. A. S. Knight, the vendors' agent at Blandford, is disposing of it at from £15 to £25 an acre. The land, a couple of miles from Wareham, is described as "rough grass and heathland."

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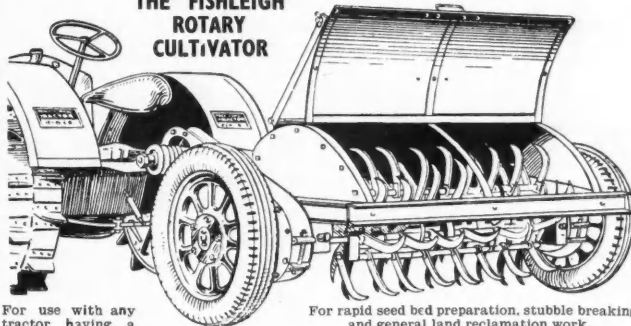
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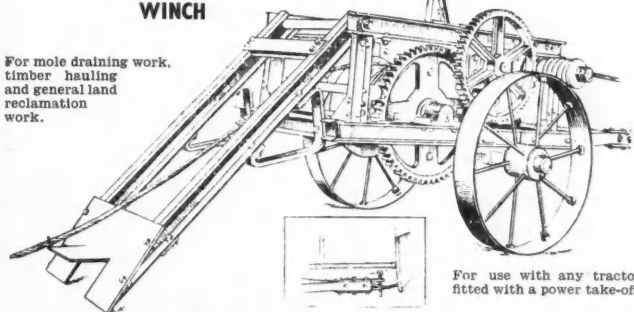
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NEW BOOKS

AN OPTIMIST ON THE LAND

Reviews by HOWARD SPRING

IT would ill become a book-reviewer like me, whose knowledge of agricultural matters has its basis in no more than a little amateur practice, to criticise the theories of a great agricultural expert like Sir George Stapledon. Happily Sir George's new book *The Way of the Land* (Faber, 12s. 6d.) is more than an expert's book about farming. It is a civilised man's book about life, and there are a hundred points at which a layman may make contact with the author.

It is unusual, for one thing, to find an expert who is not a specialist, or one, at any rate, who sees and acknowledges that specialisation must be merely a part of the equipment for good living. For example, it has not been my luck before to come across an author who advises farmers to read

Jane Austen, not because they will get fun out of it (though he knows that they will) but because it will make them better farmers. A farmer is all the better for having a sound judgment, and, "if you will but read properly, literature, more than anything else in this world, will help to make you a man of good judgment."

THIRTY YEARS

Well, this is refreshing enough to begin with; and as we accompany this acutely interesting mind along the years (for the book covers 30 years of writing and speaking) we find to our delight that the pre-eminent thing about Sir George Stapledon is that he sees the things that most closely interest him not as isolated and self-sufficient phenomena but in relation to everything that has to do with human living.

It is significant that one of his chapters is called *The non-material needs of the nation*, which is a fine plea for dignified conduct of life. "We live in an age of research, research is indeed the rudder with which man at least directs the future. If, however, most of the research and enquiry of a nation is devoted only to those things which appear to pay best, that nation will soon be doomed to a narrow outlook and will become incapable of adjusting itself to suddenly altered conditions."

Similarly, when he is deploring the way in which industry, suburb-building and defence interests have snapped up so much agricultural land, it is not merely the loss to agriculture that affronts him. It is "cultural disintegration," the vulgar swamping of loveliness by expedients that have no relation to the "deep biological and psychological needs of man."

Though he confesses himself something of an optimist and even writes (but this was in 1932) that "perhaps after all *homo sapiens* has not done so

badly," he is aware of innumerable danger-spots, apart altogether from those which the present war has created or aggravated. There is, for one thing, that threat to our population which was the subject of Mr. R. F. Harrod's pamphlet reviewed here a little time ago; and, for another thing, there is the danger to the world's soil. "I believe," he says, "the extent of the influences of soil erosion and depletion is not yet fully realised. . . . Taking soil erosion, soil depletion and land deterioration together, a vaster area of the globe is undoubtedly affected than is generally supposed." Even in the "almost incredibly rich and all-giving soils" of the Argentine "the same thing is going to happen, is believed to have begun to happen."

These tendencies must in time affect that inflow of cheap imported food to which the British housewife has been accustomed, and this is one of the reasons why Sir George Stapledon favours both variety and plenitude in British agriculture. And there is another good reason why British agriculture should stand on its own feet. It is often said that surely the best way to organise the world's affairs would be for "each corner of the globe to grow only what it best can grow, and each group of people handle the materials closest and easiest to hand," but Sir George Stapledon will not have this, as it "largely ignores the individual and completely ignores the non-material." (In passing, it must be pointed out that the individual and the non-material are two factors upon which this author rightly lays great stress.) He quotes with approval Sir Richard Paget's opinion that "from the biological point of view, national self-sufficiency implying the widest range of employment in each community appears definitely preferable to international free trade."

POPULATION PROBLEM

I was much struck by this sentence: "Probably on a large and contented rural population depends to a marked degree the increase of our population as a whole." This made me think of Mr. Harrod's statement that he was at a loss to account for the decline in population and, to put it frankly, could only guess at the causes. Increase of prosperity and contraception were his two guesses; but any increase of prosperity, I should imagine, has been urban, not rural, and it has been taking place simultaneously with the drift from country to town. I may be on a wrong track, but at least it would be interesting to study figures, if they could be obtained, showing whether the decline of urban population has been greater and swifter than the rural.

THE WAY OF THE LAND

By Sir George Stapledon (Faber, 12s. 6d.)

THE ELIZABETHAN WORLD PICTURE

Dr. E. M. W. Tillyard (Chatto and Windus, 6s.)

SIX LIVES AND A BOOK

By Claude Houghton (Collins, 8s. 6d.)

THE MOUNTAINS WAIT

By Theodor Broch (Michael Joseph, 10s. 6d.)

There was a phrase in the book which drew a deep groan from my bosom. Discussing the consequences of the whole trend of our politics in recent years having turned on selfishness, Sir George says: "All that is necessary is a change of heart." While rejoicing that the author emphasises the importance of an entirely new educational approach to life in order to secure this change, one cannot help the sad reflection that the little word "all" happens to contain the total sum of the dilemmas and difficulties that have plagued *homo* since the earliest days when he optimistically christened himself *sapiens*. "Alas, indeed, nothing short of a change of heart will get us anywhere" is putting it more realistically; and I wondered the other day how near even the horrible lessons of this war had got us to a change of heart when I read the statement by a prominent personage that "the keenest competition for air routes" would be a feature of the immediate post-war world. We have tried, and tasted the fruit of, the "keenest competition" on land and sea; must we start all over again in the air? Not if we take the advice of Sir George Scapledon, whose page 72 may be roughly rendered: "Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you."

ELIZABETHAN VIEWS

It is not often that points of similarity are to be found in two books so dissimilar as Dr. E. M. W. Tillyard's *The Elizabethan World Picture* (Chatto and Windus, 6s.) and Mr. Claude Houghton's new novel *Six Lives and a Book* (Collins, 8s. 6d.). But the points are there all the same. Dr. Tillyard's book is a learned disquisition on what the Elizabethans thought about man and his position in the cosmos. He illustrates his theme by a wide reference to the greatest writers of the time, and finds that "the Elizabethan is a very queer age." Even the greatest and most powerful intellects of the time *did* believe that the stars in their courses influenced human destiny, "that while angels take their visible shapes from the ether devils take theirs from the sublunary air," and other such strange things.

Lines to the contrary can, of course, be found here and there in the writing of the day. The author gives full weight to Edmund in *Lear* who jeers at the whole notion that the stars affect human lives, but he does not quote the quieter and more emphatic: "It is not in our stars but in ourselves that we are underlings." But all such exceptions apart, he asks us to believe that these great writers—Hooker, Spenser, Shakespeare and the rest—did accept a "very queer" view of life, that their writings represented a generally-accepted conviction, and that this conviction hung over even so late as to find expression in the poems of Milton.

This being so, no originality of thought can be claimed for these major poets. All their greatness was in expression. "Raleigh's remarks on the glories of creation and on death, Shakespeare's on the state of man in the world, seem to be utterly their own, as if compounded of their very life-blood: divested of their literary form, they are the common property of every third-rate mind of the age."

A BAFFLING NOVELIST

In Mr. Houghton's novel I read of "an effort remotely resembling that triumph of major poets which consists in stating a platitude in terms so startling that we stand as spellbound before a familiar fact as 'a cow before a new barn door.'"

Most people imagine that they have got clear from the Elizabethan habit of mind which, though using some extraordinary means, had as its end simply to determine what was man's place in a general scheme that included every part of animate and inanimate matter, as well as the supernal powers. It is, after all, a question of importance. Dr. Tillyard thinks we shall "err grievously if . . . we imagine that the Elizabethan habit of mind is done with once and for all. If we are sincere with ourselves, we must know that we have that habit in our own bosoms somewhere, queer as it may seem."

THE OLD CREEDS

As if in comment on this comes a phrase put by Mr. Houghton into the mouth of one of his characters. "The old creeds, of course, attempted to provide a framework to enclose the whole of a man's experience. They fail to do that to-day, and that's why people are turning away from them."

Mr. Houghton is a very strange novelist, because it is usual to find in his books a cloudy theme illustrated by crystal-clear characters. He writes parables, and I am not always able to see their earthly application. I am particularly baffled by the present book which tells how a novel called *The House Not Made with Hands* was read by six people and had, we are asked to believe, a profound effect on all of them. I enjoyed the long extracts from this supposititious novel, and I enjoyed the later part of the book describing the relationships of the six people concerned. But I couldn't for the life of me see what the novel had to do with those relationships. These people would all, so far as I could see, have acted as they did act whether they had read the novel or not. Thus, perhaps because of some chasm in my apprehension, there was no relationship between the first part of the book and the second. But each part, I must repeat, is excellent in itself, the work of a fine if at times rather baffling novelist.

TRAGEDY OF NARVIK

Mr. Theodor Broch, who was Mayor of Narvik when the Germans seized the town, tells a twofold story in *The Mountains Wait* (Michael Joseph, 10s. 6d.). First is the story of his own life: a young lawyer, fresh from the university in Oslo, just married, arriving in the far northern township in search of a career. There were 10,000 souls in Narvik, and Mr. Broch became a man of consequence among them, mayor of the town four years after his arrival. He continued to be mayor for six years—till there was almost literally no Narvik left to be mayor of.

It is a most attractive picture of life in a small self-conscious community—church, school, hospital, hotel, all coming into being. Then came the swift treacherous blow that raised everything to the ground. Necessarily, seeing that Mr. Broch had to act as intermediary between the invaders and the civil population, this is a first-hand record of what happened in Narvik, a document of historical importance. It is also the record of a patriot's progress. More than once Mr. Broch's actions endangered his life, and finally he fled across the frontier to Sweden. He is now with the Norwegian forces in England.

Fundamentally, his book is one more tragic commentary on the consequences of not being prepared to meet and resist evil. Incidentally, it is a most attractive picture of Norway and the Norwegians, both in peace and war.

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INTO Print

THE May sunshine puts us all into print, for prints as a practical outfit for summer vie only with the firm canvas rayons and the strong gingham in popularity. Prints, indeed, have by sheer usefulness, become the town uniform, and though labour shortages have stopped complicated dyeing and printing there are this summer more colours, more choice and more novelties even than last year.

The 1943 prints are all of them neat and gay. Colours are perhaps not mixed so riotously as they were in the heyday of chiffons and organzas, but they are definitely cheerful. Prints with the pattern worked into rows are outstanding among the florals, and shades of green are right in the forefront. Yellow and biscuit shades appear everywhere too, combined with green, black, navy and grey. Chestnut brown and ice blue is another leading combination; so are navy with biscuit or a sultry peony pink, and the leafy greens with white, or with candy pink and white, as Jacqmar show them.

Flower prints regimented into rows are usually very gay indeed. A row of bright red Tudor roses will be put next to a row of blue daisies and followed by a yellow and green flower band. Violet, mauve and cyclamen will be mixed with a clear jade green, wallflower yellows with reds and green. To counteract this blaze of colour, one of the prettiest of the lined florals is the cool green and white shown by



Multi-coloured crepe, collarless with a waist yoke and the pattern arranged in rows. Marshall and Snelgrove.

PHOTOGRAPHS
DENES

Navy and white daisy print is inlet on a navy crepe frock to make a bolero effect. Margaret Marks.

Hartnell, where a trail of ivy leaves in its natural green is arranged between green lines on a white background. A very popular striped print has rows of dancing girls arranged between garlands of flowers. This is a two-toned one with the pattern in white on a pastel ground. Other designs in white on a plain ground include a graceful carnation print of Jacqmar's, particularly pretty in white on grey or mauve, one of antique seals and one with shells for the motif. This latter is effective

on sulphur yellow. Jacqmar have a number of twill silks that stand up to real hard wear—a print of gardening implements and another patterned with sayings and mottoes of the war, and there is a fire-fighters print and a naval one. These lively novelties in design are all neat enough in execution to be perfect for the tailored suits and dresses of this summer.

A pansy print at Marshall and Snelgrove's is most effective. The pansy heads are arranged in rows, are about the size of half-crowns and well cover the ground. They are printed in white and grey outlined in black on a sky-blue or a Venetian-red ground, or in fuchsia on navy. Another floral print with the design conventionalised in this way shows a rose treated almost as a dot, set on a tiny stalk with two leaves. This is a very smart two-coloured print, and comes in sultry pink, peacock and brick-dust red on a black ground. More

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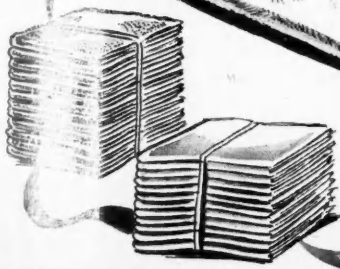
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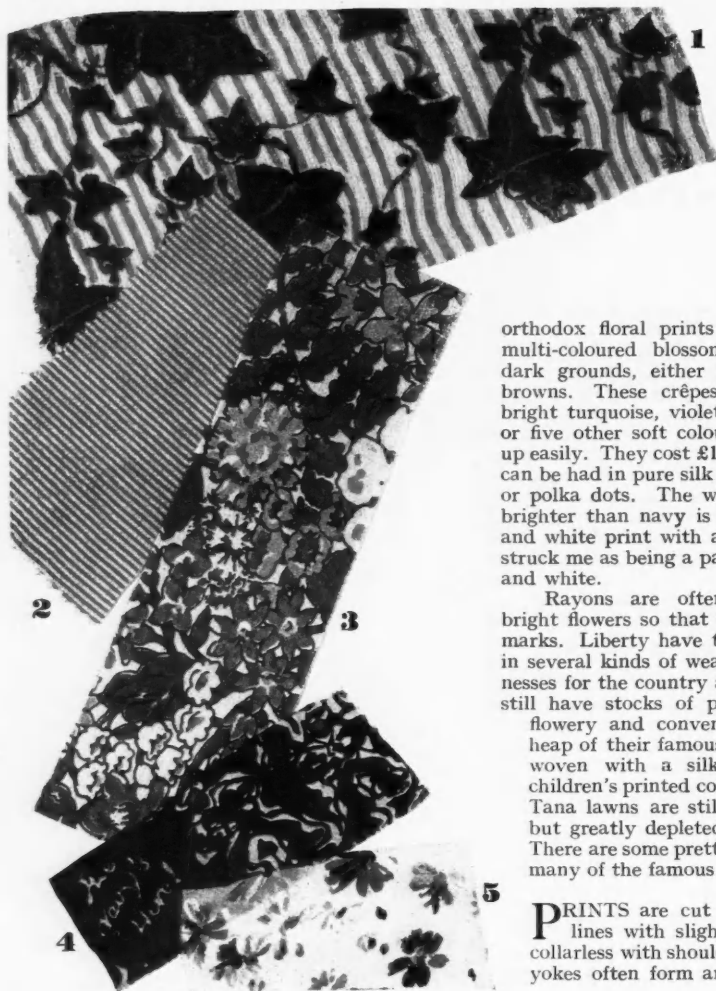
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- 1 Ivy leaves in slate grey touched with purple trailing over candy pink and white stripes. Jacqmar.
- 2 Utility rayon, scarlet and white. Moygashel.
- 3 One of the floral rayons at Liberty's, in shades of green, yellow and white.
- 4 Naval print in tones of blue; sailors dancing the hornpipe. Jacqmar.
- 5 Tiny bright florals on a white background. Jacqmar.

orthodox floral prints have masses of tiny multi-coloured blossoms scattered all over dark grounds, either black, navy, or dark browns. These crêpes have high lights of bright turquoise, violet or fuchsia, with four or five other soft colours as well, and make up easily. They cost £1 a yard. Dotted crêpes can be had in pure silk or in rayon, small dots or polka dots. The white on a blue that is brighter than navy is outstanding. A black and white print with a design in fern fronds struck me as being a particularly pretty black and white.

Rayons are often well covered with bright flowers so that they do not show any marks. Liberty have these gay floral rayons in several kinds of weaves and several thicknesses for the country and garden. They also still have stocks of pure pre-war linens in flowery and conventional designs, and a heap of their famous fine cotton georgettes woven with a silky rayon stripe. The children's printed cotton georgettes and the Tana lawns are still stacked up in bales, but greatly depleted in variety, of course. There are some pretty blues and greens, but many of the famous designs have gone.

PRINTS are cut like shirts, on casual lines with slightly pouched backs, or collarless with shoulder and hip yokes. The yokes often form an apron effect and the

skirt is gathered in front; or a dirndl skirt will be gathered all round into an inlet waistband. There are numbers, too, with a cross-over bodice gathered into soft folds, and this is a very slimming line. Plain sheath dresses, moulded to the figure, have gathered pockets and gathered three-quarter-length sleeves as their only decoration. This latter type of frock often has its own tailored print jacket to go with it and, if coupons allow this, makes a very smart outfit. The jackets are collarless, made to be worn with pearls or a flower buttonhole, and can do duty with a dark suit as a jumper, or, if the print is sophisticated enough, look well for dinner with the right accessories and a dead plain skirt. Some of the prints with ice blue, biscuit, or lilac pink ground and a neat dark design can be interchanged most effectively in this way with a dark or light hat and a dark skirt and jacket.

Plain crêpe frocks with the skirts banded with print are charming and this is an excellent way of renovating, or combining the best out of two. The skirts are gathered like a peasant's; and a wide gay hem of print matches a sash or another band inlet in the tight bodice. If you have an old print evening frock hanging in the wardrobe, one of those gaudy prints covered with jungle flora, have it made into a perfectly plain bolero that can be worn over a simple dark frock. Gloves to match would be smart. P. JOYCE REYNOLDS.

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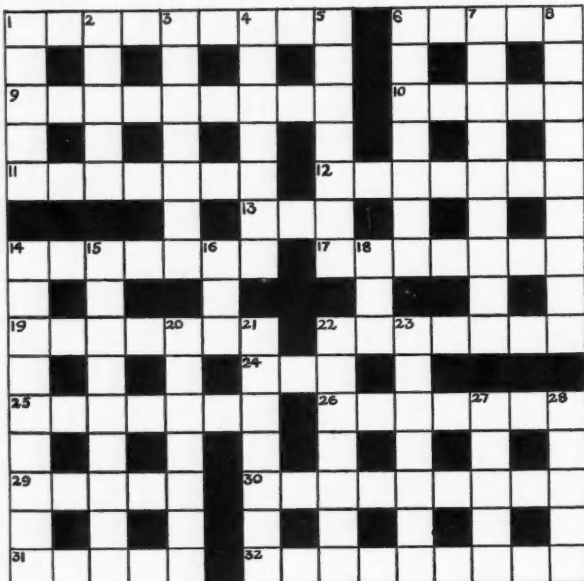
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CROSSWORD No. 694

A prize of two guineas will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions should be addressed (in a closed envelope) "Crossword No. 694, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2" and must reach this office not later than the first post on the morning of Thursday, May 20, 1943.



Name

Address

SOLUTION TO No. 693. The winner of this Crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of May 7, will be announced next week.

ACROSS. 1 and 6, Playing his part; 9, Canterbury; 10, Amen; 12, Stella; 13, Manse; 16, Existed; 18, Spartan; 19, Endemic; 21, Cartons; 22, Norse; 23, Scrubs; 27, Noes; 28, Percentage; 29 and 30, Wash and brush up. DOWN. 1, Pack; 2, Anne; 3, Inert; 4, Gobbled; 5, Inroads; 7, Admonition; 8, Tenderness; 11, Impair; 14, Here and now; 15, Wilderness; 17, Temper; 20, Cistern; 21, Corncob; 24, Bantu; 25, Path; 26, Keep.

ACROSS.

1. How the road goes over the hills (three words, 2, 3, 4)
6. Even out of step it has a disordered charm (5)
9. "O, a swan bit!" (anagr.) (9)
10. Blake's is burning bright (5)
11. Put a ring round the finish (7)
12. Writes (7)
13. *Prima Donna*? Well, first lady, at all events! (3)
14. Costs of a military advance? (7)
17. "Bully knight! bully ———! speak from thy lungs military!"—*The Merry Wives of Windsor* (two words, 3, 4)
19. A long time after the medicine, but it interests the looter (7)
22. Domains (7)
24. Looked back? And there's a wasp without his sting! (3)
25. Supplied garments for Adam and Eve (two words, 3, 4)
26. Nursed Romulus and Remus (two words, 3, 4)
29. "Age, with his stealing steps, Hath claw'd me in his clutch, And hath ship'd me ——— the land . . ." —*Hamlet* (5)
30. "Art Nan too?" (anagr.) (9)
31. Destiny (5)
32. He looks after hives of industry (9)

DOWN.

1. A pigment (5)
2. A repeated win? (5)
3. Epithet for a Ouida hero (7)
4. So anger may produce the fruit if nothing else will! (7)
5. Just simpletons (7)
6. Taurus opposes him (7)
7. It is obviously correct to put it forward (two words, 5, 4)
8. Neither quick nor wet, though they may be shingly (two words, 4, 5)
14. Vessel of perfect food (three words, 3, 2, 4)
15. Should the crocodile weep cousinly tears for him? (9)
16. Good, bad or dried? (3)
18. Sit out of place (3)
20. Girl's name, i.e. Laura (7)
21. Black sheep's daughter? (two words, 3, 4)
22. Perfume (7)
23. Let rest the table support (7)
27. Position not acquired by the underdog (two words, 2, 3)
28. Incendiary (5)

The winner of Crossword No. 692 is
Mrs. John Wier, Moor Cottage,
Fritham, Nr. Lyndhurst, Hampshire

Threads from the loom of time



50 TURNING POINTS IN HISTORY

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